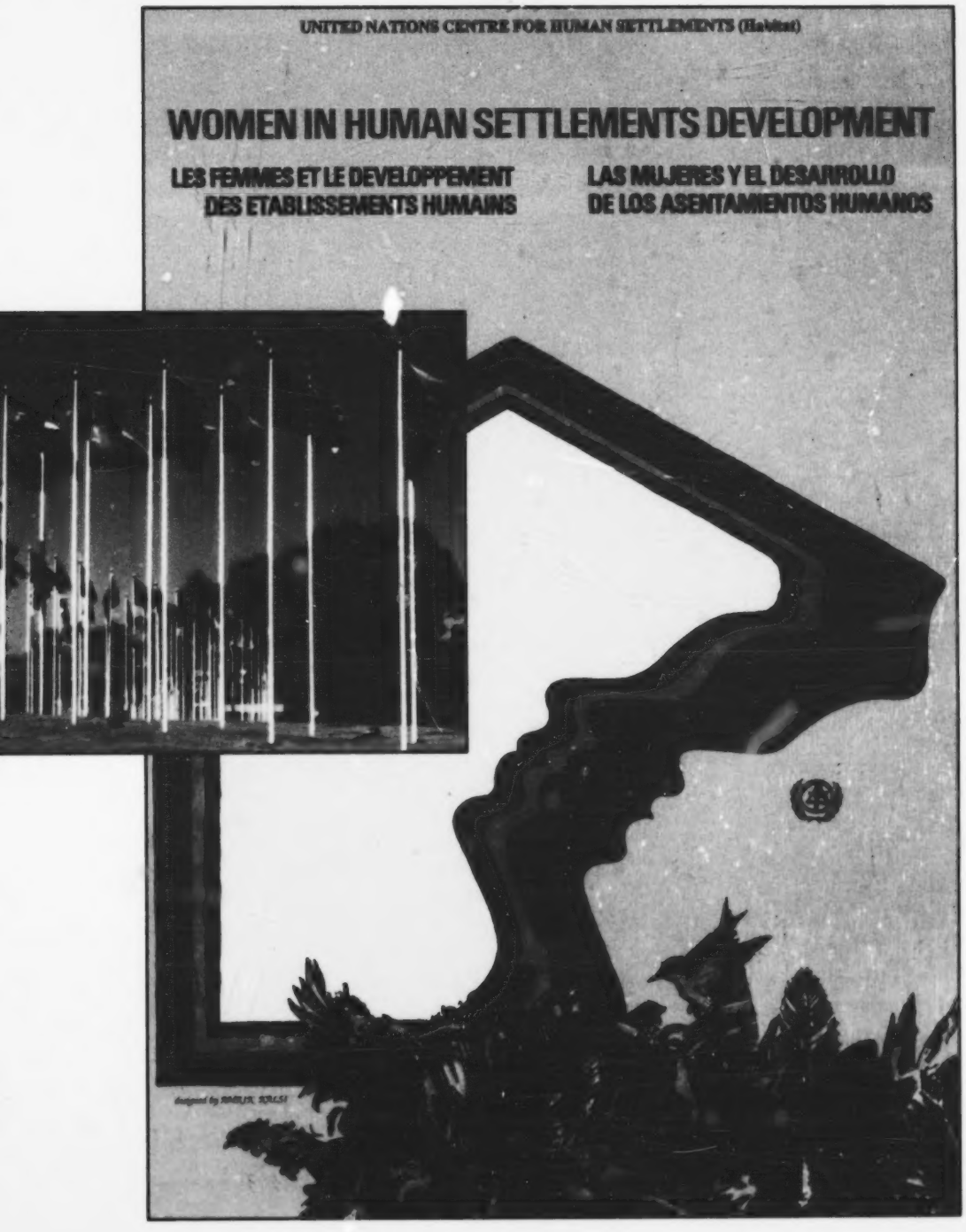
UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

HABITAT NEWS


UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)
WOMEN IN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS DEVELOPMENT
LES FEMMES ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT DES ETABLISSEMENTS HUMAINS
LAS MUJERES Y EL DESARROLLO DE LOS ASENTAMIENTOS HUMANOS

Volume 15
Number 1
April 1993

FOREWORD

Since the beginning of March 1993, I have assumed the leadership of UNCHS (Habitat) as its Under-Secretary-General, in addition to my responsibilities as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme. These are complementary challenges, since both agencies deal with sustainable development from different angles. An additional responsibility is the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the follow-up to the Vancouver Conference of 1976 which led to the establishment of UNCHS and of its governing body, the Commission on Human Settlements.

This issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS reflects that agency's preparations for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements. It also includes reports on a range of projects and programmes of the Centre. They are all geared, however to the same goal.

As I see it, our basic mission is to provide safe and sound shelter for all. Human settlements are, after all, the places where human beings live and work.

To accomplish this, we in UNCHS will need the support of all of you -- whether you are working with a grassroots women's group, in a Government ministry, or in some other way to improve the conditions in which people live and work. Rather than being daunted by the magnitude and complexity of shelter problems, we want to involve our partners from all sectors, in all countries and regions of the world.

For this, we need to hear of successful approaches to different aspects of human settlements development and management, approaches which others may adopt or adapt to suit their particular circumstances.

Even if your group or organization happens not to be represented at the fourteenth session of the Commission or at various preparatory meetings towards Habitat II, you may still write to us at headquarters and offer your ideas. If you have queries, our regional or country offices may answer them, or refer you to someone who may help. **Let us hear from you.**

To begin with, how can we improve UNCHS HABITAT NEWS? Present your suggestions, offer possible solutions, and we will take them into account as we work together to improve our cities and towns.

E. Dowdeswell

Elizabeth Dowdeswell
Under-Secretary-General

READEX
FICHE

CONTENTS

FOURTEENTH SESSION, COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS 4

Provisional agenda for the fourteenth session of the Commission 4
Improvement of municipal management (HS/C/14/6) 4
Building materials for housing (HS/C/14/7) 7

UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES 11

Executive Director's farewell 11
Habitat II Prepcom meets in New York 11
Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General, meets Habitat staff 12
Dr. Ramachandran presents memorial lecture at ITC 12

The Executive Director's statement on the demise of UNCHS project personnel in Afghanistan 13

Bulgaria: International Seminar on Reform of Housing Legislation 13
Colombian Biennial of Architecture 14
African Urban Forum 14
International Women's Day: an exercise in solidarity 15

WORLD HABITAT DAY 18

World Habitat Day theme 1993 18
Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards for 1993 18
Habday '92 update 18

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION 20

Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development 20
International Seminar on Local and Regional Development Options for the Next Decade: Focus on Eastern and Southern Africa . 20

TECHNICAL COOPERATION 21

The Urban Management Programme: African Regional Workshop 21
Conakry, Guinea: cross-subsidized plots 23
Planning and management of intermediate cities in Burkina Faso 23
Namibia formulates national shelter strategy 24
Post-flood disaster reconstruction strategies 25
UNCHS (HABITAT) IN THE ARAB WORLD: Arab Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Kuwait, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates 28
Concepción, Chile, joins the Sustainable Cities Programme 30

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT 32

Women in Human Settlements Development: Interview with CTA Irene Vance, UNCHS (Habitat) Women in Human Settlements Development Programme 32
City Data Programme: Kenya Pilot Project 34

Regional Seminar on Public Transport in Developing Countries 35
Regional Workshop on Waste Recycling/Reuse in Developing Countries 37
Policies for local government training under discussion 39
Seminars on strengthening and enabling community management 40
Regional Workshop on Community Participation in Zambia 41

Urban Areas, the environment and energy: Putting Agenda 21 into action 41

INFORMATION INITIATIVES 43

IAA/UNEP training course on human settlements and environment 43
World Habitat Awards: call for entries 1993 43
NEW FROM HABITAT 43
Habitat through others' eyes 44

EVENTS 46

Planning for a Better Living Environment in Asia 46
Water, sanitation, environment and development 46
Streets and Spaces for People 46
Natural Disasters: Protecting Vulnerable Communities 47
International Conference on Healthy Cities, San Francisco 47

COURSES 47

Birmingham School of Architecture 47
DPU 48
IHE 48
ITC 48
IRC 49
King Alfred's College/U. of Southampton 49
KIT (Royal Tropical Institute) 49
Oxford Brookes University 49
University of London 49
University of Queensland 50
University of Wisconsin 50

PUBLICATIONS 51

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 56

Mention of firm names and commercial products does not imply the endorsement of the United Nations. The designations employed and the presentations of the material in the publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

FOURTEENTH SESSION,COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, meeting at Nairobi, Kenya, from 26 April to 5 May 1993, will consider, *inter alia*, the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Develcpment, and two special themes: Improvement of municipal management; and Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery. Summaries of the latter two items follow, after the provisional agenda.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

1. Election of officers.
2. Credentials.
3. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
4. Activities of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director.
5. Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000.
6. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
7. Special themes:

(a) Improvement of municipal management;

(b) Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery.

8. Work programme of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) for the biennium 1994-1995.
9. Proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1994-1995.
10. Coordination matters:

(a) Cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme;

(b) Cooperation with agencies and organizations within the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations outside the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations;

(c) Matters arising out the resolutions of the major legislative organs of the United Nations and other intergovernmental bodies which are brought to the attention of the Commission.

11. Themes for the fifteenth and future sessions of the Commission.
12. Other matters.
13. Provisional agenda and other arrangements for the fifteenth session of the Commission.
14. Adoption of the report of the session.
15. Closure of the session.

Improvement of Municipal Management (HS/C/14/6)

Summary

In the "world of cities" in which future generations will live, development prospects will largely rest on the ability of urban areas, large or small, municipal or metropolitan in character, to satisfy the following development goals: improving the living and working conditions of the whole population, and, in particular, of those who are in a weaker position to articulate their needs and safeguard their rights and interests; promoting sustainable social and economic development; and enhancing and protecting the physical environment.

This challenge is of unprecedented dimensions and urgency, and meeting it will require a radically new look at the role of cities in national and global development. The international community will have to redefine and strengthen its presence in the urban sector. Central governments will have to accelerate action in the area of resource allocation, municipal reform, decentralization and empowerment of local governments, if they want to enhance the contribution of cities to national development. These will largely be supporting and facilitating roles, since both international and national resources to support local action will remain limited. The new paradigms for urban revitalization and rebirth will come from the cities themselves, and will be inspired by the diffusion and wide application of **new approaches to local development emerging from the cities themselves.**

The model to bring about this transition is a new, broader concept of municipal management, based on the enabling principles already affirmed in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) and in Agenda 21 of UNCED.

This model is based on the full participation of all actors and groups contributing to the growth and development of cities in all phases of municipal management illustrated in this report: the formulation of municipal policy; the adoption of a broad-based strategic approach to the formulation of policy objectives; the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of municipal programmes and plans to achieve these objectives; the enhancement of human, financial, physical and environmental resources; the improvement of municipal performance; and the establishment of sustainable and productive partnerships within the municipality, between municipalities, and at the national and international levels. It is only through these enabling arrangements that the general principles of good management -- transparency, accountability, and efficiency -- will be able to be applied to management environments where people are at the same time the determinants, the beneficiaries and the agents of improvements and change.

Introduction

This theme paper contains five chapters. The first two provide a brief illustration of the main problems and issues faced by municipalities in different development situations and outline the main terms of reference for the theme being discussed. The adoption of an enabling approach in formulating municipal policies, objectives and programmes and the transition required from a static, top-down approach to municipal management to a new paradigm based on partnership strategies involving the participation of all social and economic groups operating within the municipality are the qualifying points for a new approach. Chapter III examines the opportunities that already exist, and new options that could be developed to help municipalities reach their development objectives through improved municipal management. Under the heading of "Institutional partnerships", Chapter IV deals with the role of intra-municipal dialogue and partnership, options for central-government support, and options for international cooperation. Chapter V lists points the Commission may wish to refer to in its discussions of the theme.

I. Reshaping the policy environment

Rather than copying the management models of the industrialized world, it is essential to adopt the fundamental features of good management -- efficiency, transparency, accountability -- and apply them to a specific urban context. Municipal management is used here in its broadest possible sense, to apply to cities of all sizes, while "municipal" is meant to encompass all the actors active within the municipality. Nor is "management" to be seen as restricted to day-to-day administrative operations or to the activities of technical departments within the municipal administration. Rather it is to be seen as a *modus operandi* concerned with both immediate tasks and long-term planning, with decision-making as well as the search for consensus, with good administration as well as the formulation and continuous adaptation of a general sense of direction for the overall development of the municipal area as a physical entity, and the development of the social and economic activities that sustain its existence and nurture its growth, for the welfare and well- being of all its residents.

Municipal management is the means by which government can be translated into sustainable and participative development. Its goals may be listed under three main categories:

- Improving the living and working conditions of the whole population of the municipality, with special attention to those who are in a weaker position to articulate their needs, and safeguard their rights and interests;
- Promoting sustainable social and economic development;
- Enhancing and protecting the physical environment.

The city must be seen as a **resource**. Cities are places where people, its human resources, live and work. They have other resources -- a wealth of culture, history and tradition. If sustainability is taken to include the preservation of resources in the broader sense of the word, historic and cultural resources have the same claim to preservation, to be seen as resources rather than burdens.

Resource conservation must be combined with conversion to less polluting forms of environmental resource exploitation. Efficiency of use and improvement of quality may be achieved by environmentally-sound production of energy, reduction of unnecessary consumption, and recycling.

II. Translating opportunity into action

It is only on a participatory basis that a municipality can formulate a sustainable policy framework identifying which actions can be realistically implemented given the three development goals outlined above. This is the meaning of the "enabling approach" applied to urban management.

To reshape the policy environment, it is necessary to carry out consultations with all municipal departments -- as well as other tiers of government -- to assess strengths and weakness and to identify main issues, priorities and opportunities for municipal development as they perceive it; and to conduct consultations with representatives of all non-governmental actors. Such consultations must be regular and institutionalized.

Participatory organizational arrangements for strategic planning include a movement from "planning the city" to "a city that plans"; from product to process. Neither too complex nor too costly, strategic planning will pay dividends in the future.

Key elements include verification of objectives, resource assessment, the formulation of realistic, coordinated and clear programmes and plans, and monitoring and evaluation with the participation of all the direct beneficiaries -- individuals and communities.

III. Key areas for improved municipal management

In formulating a comprehensive municipal policy and establishing a broad-based framework for city-wide strategic planning, five key areas will have to be considered: land, infrastructure and services, transport, finance, and organizational performance.

Land management

Land-market assessment, developed by UMP and used to good effect in Karachi and Bangkok, has proved successful, for it focuses on the urban reality. Land-use planning is not only a regulatory activity, but a development and resource-mobilization tool. The control of development should be based on allowing reasonable autonomy to the private sector for individual economic initiative. Negotiation between public and private sectors can lead to better management of publicly-owned land, e.g., by agreements with private landowners for the fair and mutually beneficial exchange of land in different parts of the city. In the case of privately-owned land, occupants and owners may relate in a number of ways, from a purely economic relationship between landlord and tenant to a more traditional landowner and client/tenant relationship. Turning unauthorized occupants of land into full citizens will require more open and participative management processes and more innovative and flexible policies.

Infrastructure and services

When it comes to infrastructure and services, the first and perhaps the most important stumbling block is that both demand and supply components are usually ill-defined. Thus the quality of existing infrastructure deteriorates, while most of the new infrastructure is deficient or inappropriate.

In addressing such problems, a major task is to promote a demand orientation to the provision of municipal infrastructure and services, focusing on users. This will involve proper assessment of demand, and take into consideration such factors as contracts with private firms and employment generation. The public sector may well provide "off-site" services, and the neighbourhood, community, individual entrepreneur or private organization take on the responsibility to provide and maintain the "on-site" services.

Transport

The importance of transport for the economic productivity, quality of life, resource use and environmental quality of cities cannot be overemphasized. Activities that need to be undertaken at the municipal level to improve performance in all of these areas can be grouped under managing travel demand, promoting public transport and improving transport management.

Financial management

Financial management requires the mobilization and deployment of the monetary means required to carry out municipal development objectives -- and

Decent public transport is essential, in developing and developed countries alike

encompasses all financial resources, both latent and active, at the command of all actors operating within the municipality. The non-governmental sector not only pays taxes, fees and levies, but may make contributions through creating employment, and even through direct provision of infrastructure and services.

The theme paper sets forth a number of strategies for municipal finance reform, noting that such measures are likely to be interdependent. Financial reform, as with urban development generally, usually needs an attack on several fronts. There has to be a strategy, just as there has to be a strategy for physical growth or urban transport.

In deciding on a financing method three priority criteria need to be followed: fairness, efficiency, and administrative convenience. Turning to local revenue generation and administration, there are two possibilities of reform -- the administration of existing taxes and the search for other local taxes, whether on property, income or expenditure.

Revenue sources must, of course, be adequate to meet the cost of the services which they are intended to finance. A second requirement is that of equity, and a third that of fairness. Subsidization can lead to inefficiencies, but reduced charging should only apply to specific categories of users and only to a minimum level of consumption, above which market prices should apply.

Organizational performance

The administrative culture prevalent at all levels of government in most developing countries may be characterized as passive, procedural and prescriptive. There is a need to adapt the municipal organizational structure to the real situation existing in cities, by identifying new functions and promoting different attitudes on the part of elected officials, municipal managers and staff.

Human-resource development needs a motivational force strong enough to permeate all potential areas of change: central government, local government, professionals and the private sector. Similarly, the impulse to change may come from central government, a dedicated mayor (such as Jaime Lerner of Curitiba, Brazil) or from the constituency itself. Creativity is a major untapped resource in most organizations.

An organizational review to make structures pliable and ready to accommodate new circumstances, the forging of alliance across organizations, the willingness to alter rules and regulations, to develop middle managers -- all are important steps in the right direction.

Staff performance can be improved by a number of easy steps: learning from the experience of others, and from one's own reality, encouraging a demand-driven response to human-resource development. Training too can be viewed afresh. For example, training is not about learning, but about performance improvement, and must be linked with capacity-building.

IV. Institutional partnerships

Options for partnerships between municipalities

Over the past few years municipal associations have consolidated in developed countries, and been created in all regions of the developing world.

Such associations can play an important part in strengthening the management capability and performance of member cities in areas such as collective empowerment, information dissemination, technical support and networking.

Options for central-government support

National governments can adopt explicit policies to strengthen the capacity of municipalities to discharge their management functions. In doing so, they can help remove any confusion about where responsibilities lie. In this connection, three courses of action are open to central government: effective empowerment of municipalities through legislative and financial tools (e.g. empowering municipal governments to tax, borrow funds, purchase land and undertake profit-making activities); improved coordination between governmental agencies and municipalities (e.g. sharing specialized expertise, equipment and facilities); and supporting training and career development of staff: service, municipal government staff and decision-makers, managers of municipal-

government organizations, and senior public-sector managers of municipal areas.

Options for international cooperation

A joint UNCHS (Habitat)/World Bank background paper,* "A new focus on aid for urban development" sets the tone for the new focus required for urban development assistance to meet the challenge the developing countries are facing. It notes the importance of the urban challenge, the need to develop a sharp focus on the urban sector, and on institutional capacity-building. It also described coordination such as that in UMP, funded by UNDP and a consortium of nine bilateral donors, and jointly executed by UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank.

V. Points for consideration

The Commission is then presented with a number of points for discussion:

(a) How improved municipal management, as delineated in the present paper, can better address urban poverty issues;

(b) What should be the appropriate ways to promote and sustain partnerships between central-goverr ment agencies, other organizations, public and private, municipal authorities, the community sector and the citizenry at large;

(c) Points of the theme paper or additional policy issues such as metropolitan management, which deserve further emphasis in the future research and technical cooperation work of the Centre, with special regard to the preparatory activities for the Habitat II Conference, and not reflected in the draft 1994-1995 work programmes of the Centre;

(d) Steps to be taken to accelerate progress in one of the key areas identified for international cooperation, namely, institutional capacity-building;

(e) New initiatives that should be undertaken in addition to the support programmes carried out by UNCHS (Habitat) and illustrated in the theme paper itself.

*Presented at the November 1992 Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development Meeting on Aid for Urban Development, participated in by all major bilateral donors and multilateral agencies.

[Editor's note: Commission document HS/C/14/CRP/3 serves as an annex to the theme paper, describing such efforts as UMP, the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP), City Data Programme, training activities in the area of municipal management, Settlements Infrastructure and Environment Programme (SIEP), and Community Development Programme.]

Building Materials for Housing (HS/C/14/7)

Summary

This theme paper stems from the Commission on Human Settlements decision 13/24 of 7 May 1991, in which it decided to include in the agenda of the fourteenth session the theme "Appropriate, intermediate, cost-effective building materials, technologies and transfer mechanisms for housing delivery".

The first section of the report presents the current scenario and recent trends in production, imports and price movements of building materials in developing countries, to give an indication of the size and scope of the problem. The second analyses the factors contributing to the poor growth in production and the continuing high prices of building materials. The third section looks to the future. It identifies some of the challenges to be faced in formulating an effective strategy for increasing the supply of building materials in a sustainable manner, and also identifies some new opportunities which can assist the process. The report then outlines an operational strategy for the development of the building-materials sector, and suggests possible areas of action for the Commission to deliberate on.

A view of the tenth (Commemorative) session of the Commission, the last Commission to be held at Nairobi.

Indigenous building materials for housing

I. The mounting crisis

The provision of shelter to an estimated one billion people, either homeless or without decent shelter, is the most daunting and pressing challenge facing the building-materials industry.

Inadequate access to affordable building materials is one of the principal constraints to the ability of the poor in developing countries to provide adequate shelter for themselves. The gap between the rising demand and stagnating, and in many cases declining, production levels is widening at an alarming rate -- leading to the spiralling of prices of building materials in many developing countries and seriously affecting the affordability of housing for the vast majority of the population. Recent trends in production, imports and prices of a few key building materials used by house-builders in most countries illustrate the gravity of the current situation.

A. *Production trends*

Available data suggest that building-materials production and consumption in developing countries, as a whole, increased during the 1980s. (1) Yet the share of developing countries in the production of building materials was a meagre 16.7 per cent in 1985, and the share of sub-Saharan Africa actually declined from 1.2 per cent to 1.1 per cent between 1975 and 1985. Even where gains are registered, the very low base and per capita production undercut such increases.

B. *Import trends*

For developing countries as a whole, the total value of imports of building materials increased, in real terms, by 85 per cent between 1975 and 1985, with regional variations. (2) Country data on the period 1985 to 1989 include the importation of minimally processed material, such as sand, stone and gravel.

C. *Price movements*

The price changes of building materials over time in relation to the average cost of living shows them outpacing general inflation and cost of living -- be it in the United Republic of Tanzania, Nigeria or India. (3) There are also huge variations in price across countries.

D. *Affordability of housing*

One obvious effect of these price rises is to put the cost of building a house increasingly beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. In Ghana, it has been estimated that only the richest 30 per cent of the population can now afford a basic one-room dwelling unit costing $6800 -- assuming they could obtain a 25- year mortgage at the current rate of interest. (4)

II. Factors contributing to shortages and inflation in the building-materials sector: analysis of current trends

Several supply-side constraints are responsible for inflationary pressure on the building-materials sector. Some of these are industry-related, such as the shortage of raw materials, rising energy costs, low productivity of the industry, distribution and marketing problems -- while others, such as the economic and regulatory environment -- are exogenous. Some of the important considerations in this context are discussed below.

A. *Depleting supply of raw materials*

There are, essentially, six types of raw materials on which traditional building-materials processes rely: wood, bamboo and grass (all organic) and earth, building stone and limestone (mineral). There is competing demand for each, with land-use conflict between building-materials supplies and other uses, be it quarrying sites overrun by development activities, or the agricultural use of Nile silt.

B. *Rising energy costs*

Fuel costs, directly or indirectly (quarrying, transport and machinery) contribute to the cost of building materials. Again there is competition between

industries and with domestic demand for limited supplies of available fuels.

C. *Use of inappropriate technology*

Large-scale factories for the production of basic building materials have rarely achieved economies of scale. For example, the average cement factory in eight West African countries in the early 1980s was operating at only 58 per cent capacity; in some cases it was only 30 per cent. (5) Small-scale plants have shown remarkable dynamism and resilience, yet may be wasteful of raw materials and energy and suffer from diseconomies of scale. Appropriate technologies, intermediate in scale, combine the advantages of both. Those already tried in several countries include down-draft brick kilns and vertical-shaft lime kilns. Small-scale producers, if they are to upgrade appropriate, intermediate technologies, will require information, venture capital, and extension services.

D. *Structural constraints*

Improved productivity in the building-materials industry is also hampered by the disjointed manner in which the industry functions. This can be overcome by vertical integration (e.g. through sub-contracting) and horizontal integration (e.g. by means of industrial cooperatives and producers' associations).

E. *User prejudices*

User prejudices may affect the use of suitable alternatives, such as lime and pozzolana instead of cement, or earth-based technologies in place of bricks and concrete blocks. Another stumbling block is the lack of appropriate standards for such alternatives, e.g. for fibre-concrete roofing tiles in many African and Latin American countries.

F. *Distribution and marketing problems*

Transport and distribution costs often significantly raise the retail price of building materials, with handling costs and profit margins increasing costs.

G. *Adverse policy environment*

The building-materials sector often suffers from a lack of national policy, of coordination at governmental level, of demand projections, and of related regulations, codes and standards.

III. New challenges and opportunities

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) considered the promotion of a sustainable construction industry as a distinct programme area in Agenda 21, recommending that all countries should adopt policies and technologies to enable the construction sector to meet human settlements development goals in a sustainable manner. (6) There are already many new technological opportunities available or under development. (7) They need to be evaluated, improved, and put to work.

A. *New materials and techniques*

There are a number of promising new building materials and techniques which can be produced locally, using simple, small-scale technologies, and which can be adapted to local building traditions. These include innovations in soil construction, fibre-concrete roofing, ferro-cement products, small-scale production of cement and alternative binders, and thermoplastics (such as PVC pipes and water-storage tanks).

B. *Reuse of waste materials*

Waste materials from agriculture and industry may be used both as raw materials and as fuel substitutes. Indeed, almost all non-hazardous industrial waste can be used as an aggregate in concrete production.

C. *Improving energy efficiency*

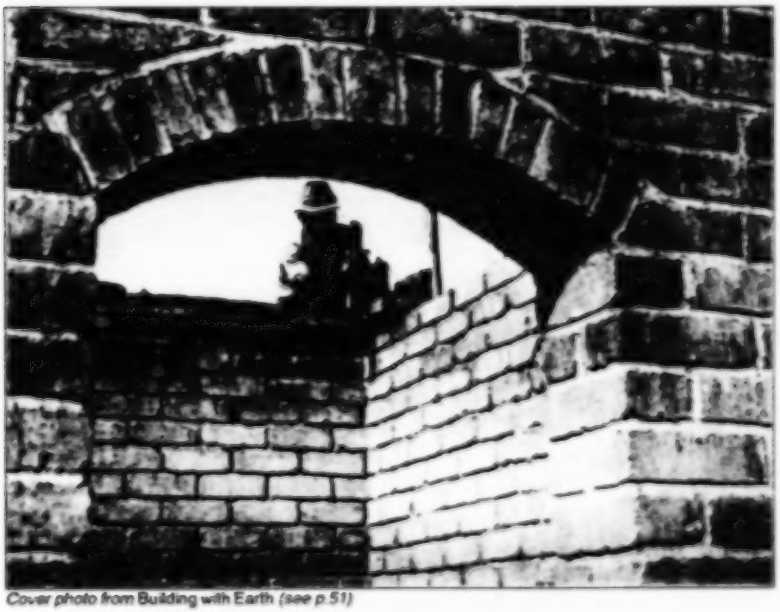
To improve energy efficiency requires efficient use of energy-intensive materials, greater use of less-low-energy materials, improving the energy efficiency of production processes and increasing the use of recyling and reuse of materials. Examples here range from the use of secondary species of timber available from managed forests such as rubber and coconut to the use of continuous kilns in brick manufacture.

D. *Arresting environmental degradation*

Environmental stress caused by building-materials industries includes extraction of mineral and organic resources for building materials; air pollution, the production of "greenhouse gasses", suspended particulate matter, and sulphur dioxide. Cleaner fuels will have to be used, and energy efficiency be improved in the production process.

E. *Transfer and diffusion of appropriate technologies*

Capacity-building here will need to concentrate on making information available, e.g. through regional networks, and the North-South twinning of institutions. The Building Centres Movement in India, appropriate technology development organi-



Cover photo from Building with Earth (see p.51)

zations and the Swedish Sister Industries Programme all prove it can be done.

F. *Community participation and enhancing the role of women*

Positive experiences in encouraging local initiatives by community-based and non-governmental organizations (CBOs and NGOs) in the local production of building materials have been documented in Brazil, Jamaica, the Philippines and Zambia. (8) Similarly, there are many successful examples of women's cooperatives in the manufacture of building materials, e.g. in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

IV. An operational strategy for the development of the building-materials sector

National strategies for the building-materials sector should be based on the following principles.

1. Support enabling strategies.

2. Target the lowest income groups.

3. Act to increase contributions of both large- and small-scale sectors.

4. Understand and minimize environmental impact.

5. Harness new technologies.

6. Increase the contribution of women.

7. Support activities of the private, voluntary and informal sectors.

Country-level actions include

- Developing, transferring and diffusing new technologies;
- Creating a supportive policy environment;
- Strengthening institutional support (through research and development organizations, small industry development organizations, financial institutions and building centres -- training-cum-promotion organizations).

International action includes cooperation among developing countries, and between industrialized and developing countries.

V. Points for consideration

A number of points are put forth for the Commission to consider in order to enhance the supply of durable and affordable building materials using renewable resources and energy-efficient technologies, and to minimize the adverse environmental impact caused by the extraction of raw materials and the production of building materials.

Notes

1. United Nations, *Industrial Statistics Yearbook 1989*, vol. I, *General Industrial Statistics*, vol. II, *Commodity Production Statistics* 1980-1989, (New York, 1991) (E/F.91.XVII.13 and E.91.XVII.12). Also, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, *The Building Materials Industry: The Sector in Figures*, Sectoral Studies Series No. 16, vol. II (October 1987)(UNIDO/IS.512/Add.1).

2. United Nations Industrial Development Organization, op. cit.

3. Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, *Review of the Economy, 1988* (March 1989); Spence, R.J.S., Cambridge Architectural Research Limited, Cambridge (UK), "Affordable building materials for housing" (unpublished draft report prepared for UNCHS (Habitat), August 1992); Suresh, V., "Techno-financing issues in the building material sector for housing delivery in the Asian region (unpublished draft report prepared for UNCHS (Habitat), August 1992, and Chandok, H.L. and others *India Database* (New Delhi, V.M. Books, 1990).

4. Addo, A.M., "Overview of the building materials industry in Africa" (unpublished draft report prepared for UNCHS (Habitat), June 1992).

5. UNCHS (Habitat), The Small-scale Production of Building Materials, Report of the Executive Director to the Commission on Human Settlements at its ninth session, 5-16 May 1986 (HS/C/9/5 and HS/C/9/5 Add.1); and UNCHS (Habitat), *The Economic and Technical Viability of Various Scales of Building Materials Production* (Nairobi, 1989) (HS/180/89/E).

6. *Agenda 21 (Geneva, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992), chap.7, sect. II.G.*

7. UNCHS (Habitat), Use of Energy by Households and in Construction and in Production of Building Materials, Report of the Executive Director to the Commission on Human Settlements at its thirteenth session, 29 April - 8 May 1991 (HS/C/13/7).

8. UNCHS (Habitat), *Co-operative Housing: Experiences of Mutual Self-help* (Nairobi, 1989) (HS/179/89/E).

UNCHS (Habitat) ACTIVITIES

Dr. and Mrs. Ramachandran with Mr. Sendashonga and other well wishers at the farewell party

Executive Director's farewell

On 19 March 1993, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, who has headed UNCHS (Habitat) since its inception, bade farewell to staff members.

Speaking on behalf of the UNCHS/UNCS Staff Association, its Chairperson, Mr. Seth Sendashonga, spoke of the impact of Dr. Ramachandran's leadership of the Centre, and wished him the best, including opportunities to continue serving the human settlements cause.

Mr. S. Kuyama, Deputy Administrator, Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation and acting OIC of UNCHS (Habitat), also noted Dr. Ramachandran's contributions, speaking of his wise counsel and inspiring leadership, and mentioning that UNCHS (Habitat) would continue to meet the challenges facing human settlements.

Dr. Ramachandran noted the "sustained effort of each and every one of you", which had helped to improve living conditions in both developing and developed countries. Reviewing important milestones in the history of UNCHS (Habitat), he mentioned the International Year of Shelter for the Homeless (1987), plus the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 and looked forward to Habitat II in 1996, expressing the wish that staff would extend to his successor, the same complete cooperation that they had shown to him.

Habitat II Prepcom meets in New York

■ Organizational session

The Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 3 to 5 March 1993. The session was opened by Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General, on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali.

The PrepCom elected, by acclamation, Mr. Robert Lloyd Wenman (Canada) as Chairman. Elected as Vice Chairpersons were Ms. Pamela Mboya (Kenya), Mr. Stanley Kalpagé (Sri Lanka) and Mr. Hassan Azia ogly Hassanov (Azerbaijan) -- while Ms. Marjorie Ulloa (Ecuador) was elected as Rapporteur. Turkey, the host country for the 1996 conference, became an *ex officio* member of the Bureau.

In addition to more than 90 Member States represented at the organizational session, a number of United Nations agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations took part.

Main decisions and recommendations

In its decisions and recommendations, the PrepCom:

- Invited the **Commission on Human Settlements** at its fourteenth session **to provide recommendations** to the Habitat II PrepCom **on substantive issues**;
- Invited **Member States and observers** of the United Nations **to submit written proposals** for consideration at the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements (CHS 14) when drawing up recommendations **on substantive topics for the Conference**;
- Invited **CHS 14 to draft guidelines** for consideration and adoption by the PrepCom at its first session to **enable States to take a harmonized approach** in their preparations and reporting;
- Requested the **Secretary-General of the Conference to provide technical and financial assistance** in particular for developing

countries, at their request, **in the preparation of national reports** for the Conference.

First substantive session

Decisions/resolutions related to the first substantive session set the date and venue for 11 to 22 April 1994 in Geneva. It was decided to evaluate at that session the implementation of the recommendations of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (GSS) and the relationship between the GSS and the proposed Global Action Plan. The Secretary-General of the Conference was requested to use the results of the review of Agenda 21 on human settlements issues to be undertaken by the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the outcome of regional and sub-regional preparatory meetings in coordination with the regional economic commissions.

The PrepCom welcomed the decision to establish an ad-hoc secretariat for the Conference as an organizational part of UNCHS (Habitat), and decided on procedures to govern the participation of NGOs in order to enable them to participate effectively both in the Conference and its preparatory process.

It urged relevant United Nations programmes, agencies and funds, and multilateral financial institutions to provide inputs to the preparatory process, and requested governments to contribute to the separate voluntary funds established in order to ensure the preparation of the Conference and the participation of developing countries in the preparatory process and the Conference.

Ms. Dowdeswell addressing staff of UNCHS (Habitat)

Background

As noted in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, Habitat II aims to arrest the deterioration of global human settlements conditions and ultimately create the conditions for improving the living environment of all people on a sustainable basis. Special attention will be given to the needs and contributions of women and other vulnerable social groups whose quality of life and participation in development has been hampered by exclusion and inequality.

Named after the original Habitat Conference, held at Vancouver, Canada in 1976, this Conference two decades later is to adopt a general statement of principles and commitments and to formulate a related global plan of action to guide national and international efforts through the first two decades of the next century.

Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General, meets Habitat staff

Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, as of 1 March, became Under-Secretary-General of UNCHS (Habitat). On her return to Nairobi, Ms. Dowdeswell addressed Habitat staff members.

She was introduced by Mr. S. Kuyama, Deputy Administrator, United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, who noted her distinguished career in Government service in Canada, and in international affairs. (See box.) "Through-out her years of public service, the programmes and policies she has initiated and been associated with have been recognized for both their innovation and vision." Welcoming Ms. Dowdeswell, Mr. Kuyama stated on behalf of all staff that they looked forward to working closely with her.

Ms. Dowdeswell stressed the opportunities for synergy between the two organizations, which -- though under common direction -- would maintain their separate identities. UNEP and Habitat each had its own vision and mandate -- as well as a team to achieve those objectives. The expertise of both organizations could, however, be joined, as in a joint task force to deal with urbanization and mega-cities. Together, she said, we will look at both the natural and social environment. "That's really what sustainable development is about."

On 1 January this year, Ms. Dowdeswell was elected for a four-year term as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP. At the time of her election, she was serving as Assistant Deputy Minister at Environment Canada and head of Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service -- where she integrated policy development, educational programmes, economic development imperatives and a global vision with its traditional functions in public service and scientific research.

In addition, she has extensive experience in the international environment field, particularly as Canada's chief delegate to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and a co-chair of the working group on mechanisms in the negotiations leading to the Framework Convention on Climate change, adopted last June at Rio de Janeiro.

In addition to these and other national and international positions, Ms. Dowdeswell has served as human rights ombudsman, university lecturer, guidance counselor, curriculum writer and teacher trainer. She thus brings a wide range of experience at a number of levels to the opportunities presented by her new responsibilities.

Ms. Dowdeswell looked forward to the imminent fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, to Habitat II in 1996 -- and beyond to what could be achieved ten years down the road towards sustainable development.

Dr. Ramachandran presents memorial lecture at ITC

On the occasion of the Dies Natalis of the International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) held at Enschede, the Netherlands, on 17 December 1992, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, Executive Director, UNCHS (Habitat) joined the distinguished ranks of those who had previously delivered a Schermerhorn Memorial Lecture. He lauded the late Professor Dr. W. Schermerhorn -- former Prime Minister of the Netherlands and founder of ITC -- and praised the ITC for its contributions to institutions engaged in aerial and space surveys. (It is, for example,

involved with Urbwatch and Urbserve, two human settlements programmes -- the latter a project formulation framework for rapid intervention in distressed human settlements identified under the former.)

Dr. Ramachandran spoke of the enormous increase in third-world population growth -- 700 million people would be added to towns and cities in developing countries, which would have severe economic, social, environmental and, eventually, political consequences. As cities were supportive complements to agriculture and primary centres of production, he said that it was essential that conditions in urban areas be maintained to enhance productive resources. But just as successful urbanization could ease the pressures on the natural habitat and rural environment, it would increase the already immense problems with air and water quantity and quality, traffic congestion and noise pollution -- the most affected being the poor.

He stressed that cities in developing countries lacked information; thus urban policy-making, planning and management were largely executed in the dark. New information technologies, satellite imagery, aerial mapping, computer-aided mapping and realistic accuracy standards for all aspects of urban and regional planning and management were a must.

Global environmental improvement and meeting the urban agenda of the twenty-first century he said, would be the result of successful local action in many and varied places worldwide. This should be supported by:

The late Anthony William Bullard

- New networks of information exchange among cities,
- An intensification of technical assistance to the most needy, and
- The full participation of the world scientific and technological community.

Bulgaria: International Seminar on Reform of Housing Legislation

In its efforts to liberalize the housing sector, the Government of Bulgaria, jointly co-sponsored and organized with UNCHS (Habitat), an International Seminar on the Reform of Housing Legislation.

The Seminar was successfully conducted during 7 to 11 December 1992 at the village of Slivek, Lovetch District. In cooperation with the National Centre for Regional Development and Housing Policy of the Ministry of Regional Development, Housing Policy and Construction, UNCHS (Habitat) recruited four international consultants well versed in areas related to the Seminar theme. The exchange of views and experiences among the national and international participants enriched the discussions which culminated in adopting

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT ON THE DEMISE OF UNCHS PROJECT PERSONNEL IN AFGHANISTAN

It is with deep sadness that we have learned of the death of UNCHS (Habitat) staff members Anthony William Bullard and Zia ul Haq in an ambush on the Peshawar-Jalalabad highway on 1 February 1993.

Mr. Bullard joined our Housing for Resettlement Project as Building-Materials Advisor in November 1991. From the start he devoted himself to achieving our overall aim of assisting the people to rebuild their lives in their war-torn country. He was already aware of the dangers inherent in traveling within Afghanistan, having been a victim of a previous ambush while traveling form Kabul to Jalalabad in July 1992. Undaunted, he continued to visit affected communities to assist in mobilizing the supply of appropriate building materials at affordable cost and also in the development of necessary reconstruction and support skills. A most competent and industrious colleague, he will be greatly missed not only by our project personnel but also by headquarters staff who knew of, and admired his dedication.

Mr. Zia ul Haq, the driver, was also slain in the same incident. Mr. Haq had only recently joined our project team operating out of our newly-established operations office in Peshawar. Although he was with us for a short time, his death diminishes us all.

It is appropriate to also remember two other loyal and conscientious national project personnel who were tragically killed in a rocket attack near our Kabul office on 9 August 1992. Mr. Najibullah Bekeran, National Programme Assistant, who served diligently and efficiently from the commencement of our Kabul activities, and Professor Halim Zia from Kabul University, who was serving as a consultant in building-materials.

We commend the spirit of our project personnel who, despite the scale of personal loss, have made every effort to sustain and build upon their very real field achievements. Compounding our sadness at this time is the fact that colleagues from sister United Nations agencies have also died in this most recent incident. Our sincerest sympathies go out to all the bereaved relatives and colleagues.

practical recommendations which are being considered by the Government.

Colombian Biennial of Architecture

Creativity, colour, environmental soundness, and artistic presentation -- these were the characteristics of the Colombian Biennial of Architecture exhibition inaugurated on 14 January 1993 by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran and H.E. Mr. German Garcia, the Colombian Ambassador to Kenya and Permanent Representative of Colombia to UNCHS (Habitat).

The Ambassador noted that the exhibition was a selection of the best work in his country. Not only did Colombia have a rich heritage of architecture -- pre-colonial, colonial and modern; it was producing economic, affordable buildings for private and public uses. He thanked UNCHS (Habitat) for sponsoring the exhibition.

Dr. Ramachandran spoke of the impressive nature of the work display -- which covered rehabilitation, reconstruction and various social uses. Viewers, he added, would benefit from a careful consideration of the posters on display, which were being shown in over 50 countries.

Every two years the Colombian Association of Architects sponsors a competition in order to highlight innovative trends in Colombian architecture. This latest biennial has many different categories, from single houses to huge commercial centres; from the restoration of the Bell Tower of the Cathedral of the City of Pamplona, Santander to the Collective Design (with the participation of the villagers themselves) for small villages on the Pacific Coast, Choco; from the Federación para la Educación Superior (FES) headquarters building in the city of Cali -- which won the first prize, to the comments on urban reform.

The different cultures, climates and regional flavour were visible throughout the exhibition, an excellent sample of authentic architecture. It is hoped that other countries will follow with a presentation of their own architecture, their own urban design.

African Urban Forum

The first African Urban Forum, held at Nairobi, Kenya, from 16 to 18 December 1992, took as its theme "Towards an African Urban Research Agenda for the 1990s". The Forum brought participants from around the continent to take part in the formulation of such an agenda. Organized by the African Research Network for Urban Management (ARNUM) with the assistance of UNCHS (Habitat) and the Centre for Urban and Community Studies, University of Toronto, it was sponsored by the Ford Foundation, Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), and the Government of the Netherlands.

In his opening address, Pietro Garau, Chief of the Research and Development Division of UNCHS (Habitat) acknowledged the importance of the meeting and its object. The challenge was to address three main issues:

- the key substantive questions for urban research,
- how that research should be organized, and
- how it could be more effective in meeting its objectives.

The key question for research he said, was poverty.

Davinder Lamba, ARNUM Secretary, offered participants a short history of the organization and outlined its objective -- the advancement of research and policy linkages in African urban management from the following perspectives:

- poverty, urban-rural interaction and productivity,
- the informal sector and its political economy,
- the needs and empowerment of women,
- the role of community and voluntary organizations.

The programme centred around the subregional presentations of the African research institutes participating in the project "Urban Research in the Developing World: Towards an Agenda for the 1990s". (The project is being conducted by the University of Toronto and is sponsored by the Ford Foundation). Presentations were also made by ARNUM and by UNCHS (Habitat).

The three groups which discussed the main issues raised came to the same conclusions as to topics and approach, with details varying from group to group.

Under **key questions**, the overriding concern was seen as developing the concept of an African city -- to be done through "visions and dynamics". Urban poverty, it was held, should be understood in the context of social formation in order to determine its root causes. Rural-urban interaction was viewed as an unfolding social, economic and political process. Urban research here would have to assess strategies and interventions of balanced development. Gender was regarded as a cross-cutting issue to be addressed in all problem areas. gender theory would need to be developed, and researchers sensitized. Perhaps the most important environmental issue was the linkage between health and the environment. Finance was the most critical resource for urban development, and the mobilization of finance one of the most important research topics.

Dr. Ramachandran with H.E. Mr. Garcia at the opening of the Colombian architecture exhibition

Under **organization of research**, the working groups concluded that adequate resources for research would have to be made available. Networking would help overcome lack of resources and donor dominance, while group research was suggested as a good approach. There was a need to develop the capacities of research institutions, particularly NGOs. The infrastructure for urban research would have to start locally, but there would eventually be strong subregional institutions. ARNUM could be instrumental in the process.

For **effective research**, an overall research direction had to be developed and a research infrastructure set up. The African database was essential here. The establishment and maintenance of such a database would require effective collaboration within each local research community, plus cooperative regional research. Greater collaboration between researchers, policy-makers and the subjects of research was seen as a must.

Participants resolved that in order to make research more effective, the African Urban Forum should be followed up, its findings implemented and progress monitored at the **next Forum in 1995**.

International Women's Day: an exercise in solidarity

International Women's Day 1993 was commemorated on 8 March at the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Women and men, members of various organizations, all joined together in a gesture of solidarity with women worldwide.

A message by Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Under-Secretary-General of UNCHS (Habitat), on the occasion noted with pleasure the initiatives towards **women in the environment in the context of sustainable development** taken by the women in UNEP -- "initiatives which certainly should be followed up and carried through". Ms. Dowdeswell went on to mention UNCHS (Habitat)'s Women in Human Settlements Development Programme (WHSDP), "where the emphasis is on **the full integration of women in the human settlements process**, describing it as "one example of a positive approach to women and women's role in development which may be used in many other contexts".

Ms. Dowdeswell mentioned the consolidated efforts by women's groups in the two agencies as a manifestation of the work towards cooperation among organizations of the United Nations system -- a theme which to her was of particular importance and concern.

After Mr. Brough of UNEP had read out the message of the Executive Director, Ms. Hanne Laugeson spoke of violence against women, the theme for the global commemoration of International Women's Day. It occurred everyday, everywhere -- on the street, in schools, in the home -- and took a number of forms, from sex tourism in Asia to rape in the former Yugoslavia to women refugees in Africa. She referred also to the 1985 Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, and to the prominent role of UNEP in promoting women's role in sustainable development, a concern outlined in the Executive Director's speech.

The programme continued with a UNCHS (Habitat) programme on "**Women in extreme poverty -- improving their shelter and services**". As Ms. Annika Törnqvist pointed out in her opening speech, it might seem like an awfully long title -- but the intent was "to pay tribute to all the women around the world who live in extreme poverty, but through great initiatives, imagination, vision and hard work make the impossible living situation possible by inventing new survival strategies, individually and through collective action". She offered a global view of the theme, concluding that women in human settlements development was about "development where the woman is in the centre, where her values, ideas, priorities come first and are addressed first-hand, because SHE is part of the decision-making process."

Ms. Hilary Airey then paid tribute to an outstanding indigenous woman, Rigoberta Menchu, Nobel Peace Prize winner in 1992. This courageous woman had seen the death of mother, father and brother -- and had had to flee her homeland. Even in exile she continued her efforts for peace, reconciliation, and justice, calling for the right to health, employment, education and housing. She intends to use the Prize money to unblock negotiations between Government and guerrillas in Guatemala, and to fight for the rights of indigenous peoples. As she said when she received the prize: "Today we must fight for a better world, without poverty, without racism, with peace."

Representatives of three different grassroots women's groups from Kibera, a large unplanned settlement in Nairobi, followed. They spoke of their struggles and successes in improving their living conditions through their own efforts. Whether volunteer health or water workers, medical workers or coordinators, they told of sharing their problems and ideas, and of starting a nursery school, building pit latrines, setting up water kiosks, and sharing information on family planning and safe motherhood.

UNCHS (Habitat) staff members pledged their unity with these women, and through poem and dance expressed their solidarity. The final portion of "I am a woman", contributed by staff member Ms. Betty Maina, appears in the box below.

Ms. Catalina Hinchey Trujillo, WHSDP Coordinator, urged participants to use the celebration as a starting point on the road to true solidarity between women as sisters, and between men and women as fellow human beings. "What each one of us does, individually and collectively, after we walk out of here **will** make a difference."

Participants were then invited to inaugurate the art exhibit on the Habitat theme. Ms. Alicia Garcia Sawyer, Ms. Maija Backman, Ms. Kaisa-Llena, and Mr. Fernando Alba had presented their artwork (paintings, etchings and sculpture) as a contribution to the celebration and an effort "to make visible the silent invisible work of so many women. It is time we recognize their contribution, help reduce their burden and facilitate their empowerment."

Throughout the day, funds were raised through a number of activities set up by the UNEP Ad Hoc Group for the Advancement of Women: a charity walk, sign-on auction, regular auction and white elephant sale, handicrafts and plant sale. Proceeds go to five women's groups in Kenya, and a sixth in Papua New Guinea.

Scenes from the UNCHS (Habitat) presentation during International Women's Day

"I am a woman who has fought long and hard battles, and still fights

To have my own right,

To get my own land,

To get money,

To get building materials,

To build my own house.

And have I?

I am a woman, a producer, a worker, a hawker, a builder;

I am a woman, your mother, your sister, your daughter;

Your friend."

WORLD HABITAT DAY

World Habitat Day theme 1993

The theme for the 1993 World HABITAT Day, **"Women and Shelter Development"**, to be celebrated on Monday 4 October 1993, was announced by Dr. Arcot Ramachandran in Nairobi on 11 February 1993. Dr. Ramachandran noted that ".. Without the full mobilization and participation of women -- and the removal of obstacles to their full participation -- the goal of the Global Strategy of providing shelter for all cannot and will not be met."

This year's World HABITAT Day theme will give women a chance to be heard and recognized as active participants in human settlements development. It is women, the invisible workforce who in remote areas, actually gather whatever materials they can find to build a **home** -- safe and sound shelter, sanitation, clean water and waste disposal facilities.

UNCHS (Habitat) is focusing its programmes and activities on promoting women as agents of change at all levels of formulation and implementation of policies

- improving women's access to credit for both property ownership and business development,
- protecting and improving women's shelter and land tenure,
- opening up employment opportunities for women at all levels in the field of human settlements,
- improving the living and working environment of women, especially low-income women, their families and their communities.

Equality for women, economic growth and development are inseparable, so the struggle to reduce poverty, the search for sustainable development and the initiatives of communities and local governments will all be enhanced by the active participation of women.

Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards for 1993

Governments and non-governmental organizations are invited to nominate institutions, projects or individuals in the field of human settlements as candidates for the Habitat Scroll of Honour Awards 1993. The following are excerpts from the selection criteria.

Achievements in human settlements development through an institution, a project or individual effort should have:

- Successfully dealt with the provision of adequate shelter and/or services to the poor segments of the population through an innovative approach which could be replicable internationally;
- Succeeded in bringing to public notice human settlements issues and mobilizing international support;
- Succeeded in mobilizing local or national action towards finding solutions to problems in human settlements;
- Contributed significantly to intellectual, scientific or theoretical approaches to human settlements development.

(See also call for the World Habitat Awards under Information Initiatives.)

Habday '92 update

Reports on commemoration of World HABITAT Day 1992 continue to be received. More detailed coverage may be found in the forthcoming UNCHS (Habitat) publication, *World HABITAT Day 1992: Report on Global Observances*, a copy of which may be ordered from the Chief, IAVD, UNCHS (Habitat).

On 5 October 1992, the Minister of Housing in **Algeria**, H.E. Mr. Farouk Tebbal, issued a special statement explaining Government policy to assist the poorest segment of the society in acquiring decent shelter -- with coverage of the Day in the major dailly newspapers.

In **Argentina**, the mayor of the municipality of the city of Buenos Aires, Mr. Carlos Grosso, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative, Timothy Painter, were among those attending the inauguration of the "Casa del Niño", a programme for those children outside of regular school hours, and the first step in a larger project to aid children and youth. In **Bolivia**, H.E. Lic. Fernando Kieffer, Minister of Urban Affairs, spoke of water for all; other speakers were the Resident Representative, Gonzalo Pérez del Castillo and the Chief Technical Advisor of project BOL/91/011, Luis Vicario.

In Santiago, **Chile**, World HABITAT Day 1992 was marked as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development initiated a programme of ten urban parks for the city, with ceremonies in two locations to inaugurate these new green areas. The **Colombian** Society of Architects launched a national competition on sustainable housing for the city of Sante Fé de Bogotá, and organized a number of seminars and panel discussions, recording them for use in the 23 regions as a training tool for architecture and urban and regional planning.

The Ministry of Housing in **Panama** produced a pamphlet in honour of the Day, featuring the Ministry's programme of affordable housing, outlined by Housing Minister H.E. Eng. Guillermo E. Quijano Jr. while the Panamanian Federation of Housing Cooperatives (FERACOVI) held a meeting for housing cooperatives to discuss their present programme and prospects of implementing the principles of sustainable development. In **Paraguay**, the National Council of Housing (CONAVI) organized a meeting of senior staff to discuss the theme "Shelter and Sustainable Development", with a press conference following. The Paraguayan Savings Bank held a panel discussion involving public and private sectors. The United Nations Information Centre in Lima, **Peru**, distributed the UNCHS (Habitat) Information kit to all dailies, which published relevant articles, and to universities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and interested individuals.

In **China**, the commemoration of the Day included efforts at the national, provincial and local levels. A cultural performance entitled "People and Shelter", attended by some 3000 people, was broadcast by the Chinese Central Television station, as was a message by

H.E. Mr. Hou Jie, Minister of Construction. At the provincial and city level, leaders delivered special messages and broadcast programmes aimed at enhancing public awareness. The Changchun Society of Housing and Real Estate Studies organized a seminar for experts to explore ways of improving shelter in Changchun in the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter.

The Government of **India** organized a special function where the Hon. Minister of Urban Development, Smt. Sheila Kaul, presented the Habitat Scroll of Honour to Mr. Laurie Baker in the presence of the UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Erling Dessau. This was followed by a seminar organized by a number of agencies. The Madras-based UNCHS (Habitat) Information Office cooperated in the organization of seminars addressed by state and local authorities as well as professionals. In Bangalore, the Institute of Town Planners organized the commemoration of World HABITAT Day 1992.

The Ministry of Communication, Transport, Post and Construction of the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** organized a ceremony attended by senior government officials, individuals, and UNDP Resident Representative Mrs. Ameerah Haq-Perera. Guests were then invited to watch a UNCHS (Habitat) video presentation "Rehabilitation of the Nam Passak Canal in Vientiane". (See article in the August 1992 issue of this newsletter.) In **Myanmar** a comprehensive article on the Day, its theme, and UNCHS (Habitat) assistance was published in the *Working People's Daily*, as was the message of the Executive Director.

The Flood Rehabilitation Project SOS complex at Lahore, **Pakistan**, was the venue for celebration of World HABITAT Day 1992. Heads of government agencies, senior officials, NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs), consulting firms, university teachers and students were welcomed by the UNCHS (Habitat) Chief Technical Advisor, Mr. A.R. Khan, while the Chairman, Planning and Development Board of the Government of Punjab, Dr. M. Arif, was the chief guest.

The UNCHS (Habitat) Information Office in Budapest, **Hungary**, organized a meeting

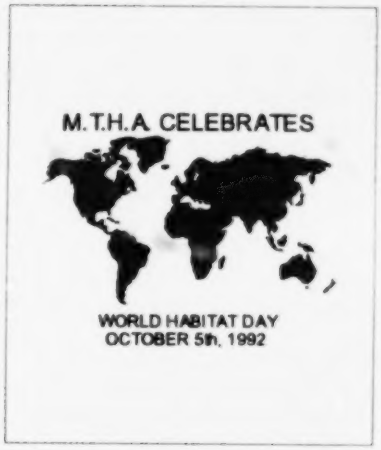
World HABITAT Day, Budapest 1992

on sustainable development attended by senior officials from various ministries, local government authorities, academics, representatives of professional organizations, and individuals. Among the dignitaries speaking were Mr. L. László, Head of Department, Ministry of the Interior; Mr. Károly Misley, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Environment and Regional Policy; and Mr. József Csomós, Head of Department, Ministry of Public Welfare.

In **Canada**, Habday 92 was observed by a number of activities at the central and local government level, with NGOs and universities joining in. The Hon. Elmer MacKay, Minister Responsible for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), issued a press release to mark the occasion, while CMHC hosted a lunch-time seminar for its employees, following a meeting of inter-departmental groups involved with activities stemming from UNCED and Agenda 21. The City of Ottawa Non-Profit Housing Corporation/City Living, together with co-venture partners, launched Thorncliffe Village, a public/private sector mixture of non-profit and affordable housing, with the support of the federal/provincial housing initiative "Homes Now". In Toronto, a "Photos from the Street" exhibition was organized by the Housing Department in collaboration with 14 CBOs, while the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority (MTHA) hosted a seminar.

The Ministry of Housing and Settlements of **Trinidad and Tobago** commemorated the Day by publishing a four-page supplement in the *Trinidad Express*, and arranged a round-table discussion with the UNCHS (Habitat) representative for the Caribbean, James Armstrong.

In the **United States of America**, the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials distributed some 700 World HABITAT Day posters at their annual conference, held at San Francisco, California from 20 to 23 September 1992. Mr. Kenneth Miller, President of the National committee for Habitat (helping UNCHS help the world's homeless) looked ahead -- "on to World HABITAT Day 1993 and Habitat II 1996".



INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

Africa's Critical Economic Situation, Recovery and Development

The Second Meeting of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-IATF) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 27 and 28 November 1992.

The United Nations organizations attending are listed in the box.

African Development Bank (ADB), Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD), Department of Public Information (DPI), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), UNCHS (Habitat), United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The Organization of African Unity (OAU) also attended.

UNCHS (Habitat) was represented by Mr. Parviz S. Towfighi, Chief, Inter-organizational Affairs, Office of the Executive Director and Special Programmes. He made a statement to the Meeting describing the research and operational activities of the Centre in Africa.

During the course of discussions, Mr. Towfighi stated that UNCHS (Habitat) would be willing to join the IATF Working Group to work towards achieving the objectives of the United Nations New Agenda for Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) and the United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. This proposal was approved by the Meeting. UNCHS (Habitat) also suggested the development of a system-wide action programme, with each sectoral programme for Africa, which in turn could be integrated in a comprehensive multi-sectoral programme for Africa's economic recovery and development.

Subsequent to the discussions carried out in the Addis Ababa Meeting on UNCHS (Habitat)'s proposal, the Executive Director of that agency established, in December 1992, a Task Force on African Economic Recovery and Development within the Centre, responsible for development of an integrated programme in the field of human settlements.

International Seminar on Local and Regional Development Options For the Next Decade: Focus on Eastern and Southern Africa

The above seminar was organized by the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) Africa Office at Nairobi from 22 to 24 September 1992. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP delivered messages to the Seminar. Mr. Parviz Towfighi, representing the Centre at this Seminar, also presented a paper entitled "A Regional Planning Paradigm". The main elements of this paradigm are listed in the box below:

A Regional Planning Paradigm

- **Plan for people**, consider priorities established by people regarding their places of residence and work.
- **Make marginal adjustments to powerful trends**; do not go against those trends, make use of them.
- **Take full advantage of conditions** for which you have not paid - e.g. "economies of concentration" is a free good for those enterprises which locate themselves in locations enjoying such economies.
- **Maximize the use of human resource potentials** and the entrepreneurial spirit of migrants in large urban centres.
- **Use strategic leverages** - mostly financial disincentives to obtain desired patterns of development. Avoid direct supply-driven investments in less favoured locations.
- **Provide incentives** for the private sector in areas where a marginal intervention will result in a great return; do not offer tax exemptions and subsidies to industries in locations where they stand no chance of competing in the free market.
- **Promote participatory planning and management of local communities**, urban or rural. This is the only workable method for decentralization. Decentralize credit facilities, to the extent possible, and to locations with potentially viable small-scale enterprises.
- **Enable and empower** communities to plan for their growth and development; propose methods for revenue-raising and revenue-sharing and preparation of capital budgets.
- **Assist people** to identify their local resources and analyse their comparative advantages in activity developments.
- **Establish links** between the large national projects related to resource-use and local enterprises.
- **Improve the bases of education and knowledge** required for introduction of new activities, and arrange specialized training programmes in technologies for production of various products.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Urban Management Programme: African Regional Workshop

The first African Regional Workshop on Urban Management was held from 11 to 15 January 1993 at Nairobi, Kenya. It brought together about 100 urban management experts from some 20 sub-Saharan African countries. Since the aim of the Workshop was to initiate the process of **regionalization** of UMP in Africa, the following issues were discussed: (a) Which political and institutional changes are necessary in order to resolve the crisis of urban management in African cities? (b) What contribution can UMP make towards the economic and social development of African cities? (c) What are the principal objectives of UMP regionalization and in this context, how can this group of experts contribute towards this process?

The participants joined in three working groups with simultaneous sessions. Each group addressed all three issues. These groups were assisted by members of the UMP core team of experts from UNCHS (Habitat) and the World Bank as well as a consortium of experts provided by the British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) of the United Kingdom.

The Workshop recognized that UMP is helping to initiate a fundamental process of transformation and change through the improved management of African cities. In order for this process to be effective, it has to go hand-in-hand with democratization, decentralization, acknowledgment of human rights and social justice, popular participation and gender responsiveness. The crisis in which many African cities find themselves today compels UMP to help reinforce local authorities and community-based organizations (CBOs) while bearing in mind the need for strengthening the fundamental functions of government. On the basis of these ideas and the subsequent discussions, the Workshop made a series of **recommendations**, which included the following.

Political and institutional issues: In the framework of decentralization and democratization, institutional capacities of local authorities should be strengthened for more transparent and equitable management of cities, involving the private sector, NGOs, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and CBOs. The emergence of a new municipal culture should be assisted.

Launched in 1986, the Urban Management Programme (UMP) is a ten-year technical support programme designed to strengthen the contribution that cities and towns in developing countries make towards human development -- including economic growth, social development, poverty alleviation, and environmental quality. UMP is a major collaborative undertaking of the international community to advance urban management by disseminating the latest understanding of urban development issues and priorities, incorporating modern planning and management approaches and techniques, and applying up-to-date strategies for technical cooperation, technology transfer, and capacity-building. The Programme involves a partnership of many actors with UNDP providing the core funding, UNCHS (Habitat) serving as the executing agency, and the World Bank as associated agency. In addition, other multilateral agencies, bilateral donors, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provide various types of support. The key partners, however, are public-, private- and community-sector practitioners in developing countries who are involved in programme activities at the community, municipal, national and regional levels.

Economic and socio-cultural development of cities: Research activities aimed at improving urban productivity should be conducted to achieve a better understanding of the African city, including the informal urban economy and the capacity and willingness to participate by disadvantaged groups. The gender dimension of urban management should be explicitly addressed in urban policies and programmes.

Regionalization and the role of experts from the region: A roster of institutions and experts from the region should be developed so as to improve research, training and information exchange using available institutional and human resources in the region. The establishment of associations of local authorities and professionals in urban management should be promoted. Workshop participants should be encouraged to initiate and mobilize in their respective countries the building up of a national network of expertise and to help formulate requests for technical cooperation to UMP. Collaboration between UMP and technical assistance institutions and programmes in the region should be further enhanced, particularly with the Municipal Development Programme (MDP).

The Workshop recommended that UMP should provide support and assistance regarding the following priority issues in its five components:

1.Urban land management

At the local level: establishment of open and transparent land markets which favour greater accessibility to land with secure tenure for urban dwellers; development of efficient land information and registration systems; capacity-building to develop appropriate schemes of land use.

At the national level: national reforms on land policies and management; simplification by central government agencies of legal frameworks and land-acquisition procedures; appropriate housing and shelter upgrading policies including the regularization of squatter areas; land-based survival strategies such as urban agriculture; effective coordination between national institutions dealing with land management and registration.

At the regional level: comparative studies on land policies in the region and dissemination of information to users.

2. Urban infrastructure management

At the local level: infrastructure investment planning and programming by local authorities, based upon effective demand, identified in specific service locations and with appropriate involvement of service users; new mechanisms for cost recovery and user charges to ensure effective infrastructure maintenance; promotion of the use of local materials, labour-intensive methods and small-scale industries in urban infrastructure development and maintenance; definition of guidelines regarding levels of services in order to improve standards of living of the citizens and levels of productivity of urban economies; involvement of local communities in the development and maintenance of urban infrastructure; greater involvement of relevant CBOs and NGOs in the infrastructure investment planning and programming process.

At the national level: definition of indicators of performance and quality of infrastructure services; clarification of roles and responsibilities between central government and local authorities; building of mechanisms for management and maintenance of urban infrastructure involving greater participation by the private sector.

At the regional level: exchange of experience on appropriate techniques and types of management of urban infrastructure services.

3. Municipal finance and administration

At the local level: support to local authorities in identifying, mobilizing and managing resources, particularly through training courses for elected representatives as well as municipal personnel and by establishing sound information strategies for revenue collection; promotion and strengthening of resource mobilization programmes for neighbourhood communities; promotion of transparent financial management practices enabling citizens to monitor their contributions.

At the national level: greater recognition by central governments of the need to grant local authorities improved financial autonomy; promotion of effective transfers of resources on an equitable basis; establishment of a viable system of audit and local accounting; establishment of better incentives for municipal personnel and improved career development.

At the regional level: creation of one or more regional centres to help monitor, assess and develop comparative statistics on municipal finance; production and dissemination of tools for financial and administrative management; intra- and inter-regional staff exchange programmes to assist in the transfer of knowledge in municipal finance and administration; research on the development of innovative systems of municipal finance and management.

4. Urban environmental management

At the local level: development by local authorities -- with full acknowledgment of gender concerns -- of environmental action plans and strategies with the key aim of assuring long-term ecological sustainability; assistance to local authorities to develop, review and apply regulations and incentives for environmental protection and management; improved information to the local authorities about international legislation and agreements with an impact on the management of the local environment; establishment of education and information programmes on urban environmental issues; pilot research and demonstration projects on the urban environment to develop practical tools for dissemination; routine monitoring of air, water and waste, environmental risks and health impacts.

At the national level: national consultations on urban environment with technical assistance under the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP); support to central government authorities in the elaboration of environmental rules and regulations; design of plans for environmental protection and natural-resource management; dissemination of international agreements and conventions regarding management of the urban environment.

At the regional level: establishment of a task force on the prevention and management of risks, major hazards and catastrophes; creation of an award for the municipality which manages its environment best; research on management of the urban environment, particularly the impact of toxic wastes; production of tools for environmental management for dissemination through regional seminars and workshops.

5. Urban poverty alleviation

At the local level: research activities to gain better understanding of the dynamics of urban poverty; development and implementation of strategies and action plans to alleviate urban poverty.

At the national level: support to macro-economic and legal reform programmes for development of the informal sector and creation of employment opportunities, improved access to justice to protect and advance civic rights; formulation of policies and strategies to alleviate the negative impact of structural adjustment on the urban poor.

At the regional level: establishment of a task force to study the phenomenon of street children in African cities; exchange of experiences on programmes for the alleviation of poverty through regional seminars.

The above-cited recommendations represent policy guidelines that the UMP Regional Coordinator and his team must translate into action plans and disseminate widely. The participants also recommended the setting up of a regional consultative advisory committee to assist the UMP Regional Coordinator and his team. Finally, they recommended the establishment of a small grant programme as a device for UMP to link directly with NGOs and CBOs at the regional level.

The Workshop adopted the "Nairobi Declaration" extracted below:

- *Acknowledging* the seriousness of the urban crisis in Africa,
- *Recognizing* the urgency and complexity faced by the central and local governments in arresting the increasing degradation of living conditions in cities,
- *Being aware* of the major challenges of increasing urban poverty and deterioration of the urban environment and their negative impacts on economic and social development,

1. Recognize the importance of cities in the economic and social development;

2. Regret the anti-urban bias which has prevailed in the formulation by government and support by external support agencies of national policies, while recognizing the strong and complementary linkages between the rural and urban world;

3. Welcome the growing awareness of urban issues by central governments and external support agencies;

4. Applaud the effort initiated by the international community through the UMP to assist the African continent in the resolution of its crucial urban problems by establishing mechanisms to increase the collective know-how primarily through capturing the lessons of experience from local demonstration activities;

5. Support the enlargement of on-going efforts to address development problems in Africa;

6. Welcome the UMP regionalization initiative and the support given to enhancing the capacity of local institutions, grassroots organizations as well as regional expertise.

Conakry, Guinea: cross-subsidized plots

We would like to correct a typographical error in last August's article which stated incorrectly (p. 21) that the price of a "social" plot was $US40. It is some **$US450** (at $US2 per square metre for a smaller plot size of 150 to 300 square metres).

Planning and Management of Intermediate Cities in Burkina Faso (UNDP/UNCHS projects BKF/87/010 and BKF/90/006)

In 1987, the Government of Burkina Faso embarked on a territorial reorganization by dividing the country into 10 regions, each of them headed by an intermediate-size centre which was intended to become the economic and social "motor" of the new constituency.

Between 1987 and 1990, a UNDP project executed by UNCHS (Habitat) and the Ministry of Public Works of Burkina Faso initiated urban management in the country: two secondary cities with approximately 10,000 inhabitants, Yako and Koupela, were used as pilot centres in view of the second five-year development plan (1990-1995). The 10-intermediate-centres development programme dealing with cities ranging from 15,000 to 70,000 inhabitants, also supported by UNDP, was then launched within this second plan.

■ Small cities will grow up -- or the growth of secondary cities

The experience of Yako and Koupela was a real learning process for the civil servants from the Ministries of Public Works, of Planning and Finance, and of Land Administration. The concept of a "municipal structure" with the necessary services was new in Burkina Faso -- where the mayors are administrators appointed by the Government. The separation between central and local authorities' functions was not very clear, leading to misunderstanding and blockages. The communes with a recent status of local government remain under central administration control.

The UNCHS (Habitat) team assisted the Ministry of Public Works in the first phase by creating local planning and coordinating units called "municipal technical support committees". Within the framework of these committees, training and information activities were organized. These deal with urban legislation, land use and housing surveys, feasibility studies on infrastructure etc. Municipal administrators and newly recruited technical staff learned how to collect data, and process and analyse it. They also familiarized themselves with the formulation of urban development projects. It was the first time that seminars had been organized for the municipal personnel. UNCHS (Habitat) produced training manuals on urban planning and management as well as a video film, "The growth of secondary cities".

■ Strengthening local government

From the beginning, it was clear that the strengthening of municipal services was a priority: a new post of "municipal technician" -- in charge of the follow-up of any urban development projects -- was created. The person who filled the post quickly became the focal point of a new UNCHS (Habitat) technical assistance project launched in January 1991. Twelve municipal technicians (associated with the ten intermediate centres plus the two secondary cities of Yako and Koupela) were recruited to be trained in all operational tasks: census analysis, diagnosis of the development problems of their urban centre; contacts with public administration at central and regional level; consultations with local actors and surveys of population needs. Training municipal staff must be continued, as it revealed the need for such permanent capacity-building activities.

On the other hand, the municipal technical support units were extended to the ten regional centres with new functions as advisory committees composed of local

Map showing the twelve cities in Burkina Faso

UNCHS (Habitat) team with the local authorities in Kaya, one of the twelve cities. On the far left are B. Sawadogo, municipal technician of that city, and Sylvie Lacroux, Chief Technical Advisor. On the far right (from the right) are A. Barry, National coordinator of project BKF/90/006, the Mayor of Kaya, and A. Dia, the associated expert

economic and social actors, to assist the mayors in their managerial responsibilities.

The twelve cities which received technical assistance and training were thus in a position to initiate the setting-up of a local databank including information on housing, infrastructure, services, and the major local development problems. Seven out of twelve municipalities had produced their priority infrastructure-and-services programme for the next five years, taking into consideration their own budgetary capacity. At the national level, following guidance provided by the project team, the supervisory department of local finance from the Ministry of Territorial Administration provided financial management assistance to the local authorities.

Municipal governments were requested to improve local resources mobilization; a number of the municipalities started operations with their own resources. The creation of a municipal investment fund -- based on a redistribution of resources between the State, the provinces and the municipalities -- is expected to result from this component of the project.

As a result of the analysis of the housing conditions in the twelve intermediate and secondary centres, recommendations were also produced for the National Shelter Strategy (NSS) to address specific problems of these urban centres. These include the insufficient availability of land for housing (and particularly of serviced land), the high cost of building materials compared to household incomes and the lack of credit facilities accessible to low-income families.

After two years of project implementation, significant achievements could be reported. Others are expected to be obtained in the course of 1993, as the project is continuing with the assistance of a reduced international team and the responsibility for the execution of the project, taken over by the national counterpart represented by the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Urban Development.

Nevertheless, a common obstacle emerges from this preliminary evaluation of the results: the absence of real local autonomy symbolized by the status of the mayors as nominated civil servants. The intermediate cities are not yet emancipated. A decentralization of political powers and of human and financial resources is the condition for meaningful municipal management improvement. These questions are expected to be in the 1993 agenda of the National Assembly.

Namibia formulates national shelter strategy

The Government of Namibia has placed housing among its development priorities. The newly-established Ministry of Local Government and Housing is responsible for planning and implementing a new programme of work designed to tackle the housing shortage facing the country. The Ministry has already prepared a **draft housing policy** which underscores the government's role as a facilitator, providing support and incentives to individual households, communities and the non-governmental sector in addition to enhancing the role of the public-sector agencies.

UNCHS (Habitat) is helping Namibia to formulate a national shelter strategy (NSS). This project (NAM/90/018), funded by UNDP, aims at assisting the Government to strengthen the current administrative and institutional structure in the shelter sector. The project is analysing constraints facing the current housing delivery system and helping develop responses to them.

The NSS will develop realistic policies and programmes which will provide low-income groups with better access to shelter and related services such as housing finance, serviced land and infrastructure. The Government will be assisted in the implementation of a series of pilot projects to test the new approaches.

"Build Together"

With support from the project, the Government has already launched such a pilot initiative. Appropriately named "Build Together", the programme aims at bringing together all the actors involved in the shelter sector to realize the goal of adequate housing for all. The Government has allocated 25 million rand for the Build Together programme during the 1992/93 financial year -- while about 30 million Rand will be invested by the National Housing Enterprise. Donor contributions from France, Germany and Japan, and a soft loan from China, will supplement national resources.

Implemented at the local authority, village and community levels, the Programme is monitored by the Community Housing Development Group (CHDG) consisting of community representatives, local government officials and other interest groups. The Group identifies the communities, carries out on-site planning, disburses and recovers loans, and monitors the programme.

With the assistance of the project, a report on conventional and non-conventional housing finance was prepared. Recommendations of this report have been incorporated into the Build Together credit programme which offers various loan options that match the needs of the beneficiaries and their ability to repay. Loans thus range from R1000 to 22,500.

They are available for purchasing plots, installing services, and upgrading or constructing houses. Loans are also available for constructing community facilities and establishing manufacturing yards for building materials.

Clearing "Single Quarters"

The remarkable success in clearing the notorious "single quarters" of Windhoek has added stimulus to the shelter improvement activities in the country. These single quarters housed men brought to urban centres for work, but discriminatory laws prohibited their families from joining them. With Independence, men began bringing their families to their single quarters, leading to severe overcrowding (situations of 15 people per room were not uncommon). Soon they started building small shacks in the surrounding areas and setting up markets there. The result was limited water and toilet facilities, and generally unhygienic conditions.

A Steering Committee appointed to look into the problems organized several meetings and workshops for the communities to find suitable solutions to their problems. The communities identified sites to which they wished to move. Soon these areas were divided into plots of 300 square metres, and provided with communal toilets and water taps. By September 1992, over 800 families had voluntarily moved to these plots with the assistance of the National Housing Enterprise and the Municipality of Windhoek -- allowing the whole area around the single quarters to be cleared up. These families are now being assisted with small loans to build permanent structures on their plots. Inspired by the success in Windhoek, plans are now underway to clear the overcrowded single quarters in other urban centres.

This experience has encouraged the Government of Namibia in its role as "facilitator" of housing through helping people improve their shelter conditions. Its approach is to encourage community participation and consensus in solving shelter related problems.

Another pilot project is under implementation in Katutura, an area formerly designated for the Black population. It aims to provide affordable housing to the residents through self-help and community participation. The Katutura project is expected to demonstrate the advantages of these approaches. Lessons learned there will make easier the implementation of similar programmes on a larger scale in other parts of the country.

Post-flood disaster reconstruction strategies

The Pakistan floods

The monsoon rains which nourish the Indus river system in its course through Pakistan are a regular annual event from late July to early October. In an average year, these rains result in a considerable rise in the river levels, and some flooding occurs. The Government is prepared for this, and the people living in flood-prone areas have by-and-large long since learnt to live with this phenomenon. Occasionally, however, the rains are heavier than usual, and the preparations prove to be insufficient.

This was the case in 1992, when a rare convergence of climatic factors resulted in exceptionally heavy rainfall during the wet monsoon. Not only was the amount of rainfall unusually heavy, but the rise of the rivers occurred with unprecedented speed. Moreover, the water levels rose simultaneously on several of the major rivers which drain the Punjab, compounding the problem and taxing the capacity of the flood-control works well beyond their design parameters. The result was widespread destruction of rural villages, infrastructure and flood-control works. The loss of life was fortunately small given the proportions of the disaster, but a considerable number of cattle were lost and damage to important crops was sustained.

Aware of the magnitude of the disaster, UNCHS (Habitat) sent an advisory mission to the Government of Pakistan. Its purpose was to provide advice on the strategic use of financial and human resources to support development-oriented reconstruction and rehabilitation of flood-affected areas. The work of the mission revolved around three main tasks:

- Assess damage and reconstruction needs:

(a) Review related documentation,

(b) Conduct a field inspection of selected affected areas,

(c) Meet with Government officials and representatives of NGOs, multilateral and bilateral organizations to assess needs, priorities and the availability of funds for reconstruction,

- Formulate development-oriented reconstruction and rehabilitation strategies;
- Develop specific recommendations to the Government on development-oriented recovery of flood-affected areas.

The mission accordingly prepared a report incorporating their findings on damage and needs assessment, strategies for reconstruction, and recommendations for implementation.

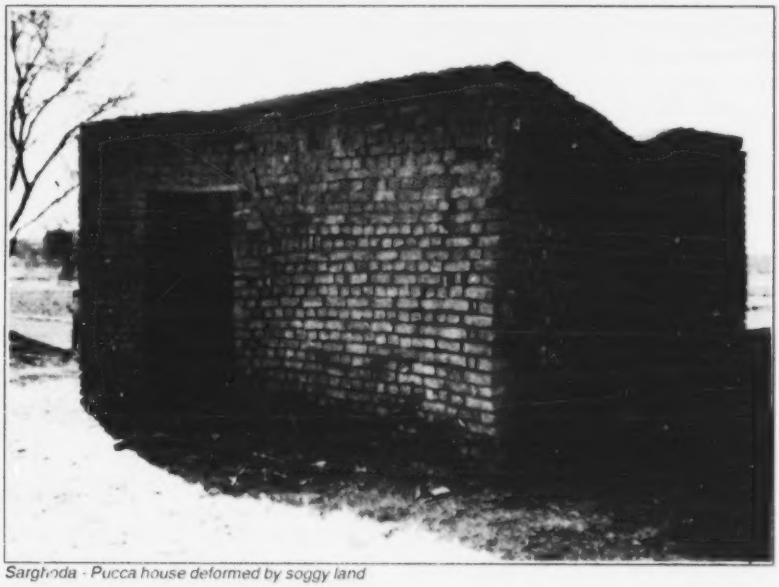
A development-oriented approach

Pakistan is not alone in suffering increased consequences to natural disasters as a result of growing population densities and ensuing urbanization at all levels. A number of major global programmes have been established to address disasters. The 1990s have been designated as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In 1992, UNCED, in chapter 7 of Agenda 21, recognized the consequences of disasters: increasing loss of life and property, with the need for major settlement of population in some instances, major losses of fertile agricultural land, and the disruption of economic and physical structures. Human settlements bear the brunt of such disasters.

Agenda 21 also promotes the concept of development-oriented reconstruction after disasters. Reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts entail major investments. Such investments must not only be placed strategically (since it is unlikely that resources available will meet needs); they can and should be used to regenerate the economy and reinforce the social fabric affected by the disaster. Since the international community often participates in such efforts, it is in its interest that the most benefit is derived from funds allocated to the purpose.

This takes us well beyond the limited definition of reconstruction, which is still perceived as a rebuilding effort, reconstructing what has been damaged or destroyed to return to the pre-disaster

Sarghoda - Flood-damaged house



Sarghoda - Pucca house deformed by soggy land

Jhelum River, Balarat, NWFP - Flood destruction

Jhelum River

The Jhelum River, Balarat, NWFP - Flood destruction

Kasur, UNCHS-funded Project water pump

situation. Rather than reconstructing to pre-disaster levels of risk and vulnerability, the disaster is seen as an **opportunity to improve on pre-disaster conditions and mitigate future disasters, to generate new economic growth and strengthen social institutions** in affected areas.

Application in Pakistan

Rural populations in Pakistan account for over 70 per cent of the total population -- three quarters of them in the flood river basins of the Indus River, and the rest in the mountainous regions of the northern provinces. The effects of disaster are very heavily borne by the rural populations living in the areas either directly hit by the rush of waters in the mountain valleys and gorges, and those submerged and dissolved by rising waters in the agricultural river basins. *Kutcha* houses, the most traditional type of rural construction, are dissolved and washed away by the waters. The onerous and costly task of rebuilding falls on the poor, usually the women. And of course it is not only stable dwellings, but other property -- clothing, tools, implements, and food supplies. Moreover, they may find themselves deeper in debt. Thus natural hazards seriously hamper development growth, as each major loss considerably reduces their opportunities for surmounting their structural poverty.

Once the emergency and relief efforts have been carried out, the norm is "reconstruction by the people", who are left to their own devices, using the materials at hand: mud bricks and mortar, wood, thatch, stone and if affordable, prefabricated roof components. Government compensation covers loss of life, house and livestock, revenue postponement, and includes no-interest credit for land rehabilitation and seeds plus the waiver of loans, usually for a one-year period. Post-flood reconstruction programmes do **not** provide for rehabilitation and reconstruction of rural settlements, social infrastructure and community facilities. There exist few, if any, external supports as credit facilities or technical assistance to reconstruct let alone improve facilities, especially for *kutcha* construction.

Poverty alleviation and development for this large sector of the population **can** be considerably encouraged through actions for reconstruction and rehabilitation of rural settlements, incorporation of technical improvements, and provisions for protection measures for medium- to high-risk settlements to mitigate destruction from future destructive flooding. To this end, existing resources -- external, government, social and community, human, material and financial -- must be coordinated and channeled for these specific purposes.

Post flood-disaster reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes do not contemplate **environmental protection** or recuperation actions. River protection, water-control structures, public and community infrastructure may have become more risk-prone to floods and other hazards (heavy rains, landslides, earthquakes), to further degradation or destruction. Environmental improvements that contribute to the rivers' performance -- together with protection activities directed towards mitigating future degrading effects -- would have to be introduced in projects and programmes for post-flood reconstruction efforts, and in regular development actions.

Community participation, protection of rural settlements, protection and improvement of rural housing, ecological and environmental upgrading are all inter-related and will contribute to overall community and national development. Similarly measures should be introduced while reconstruction takes place and with the same resources.

The expected **objectives of development-oriented reconstruction** would be to:

- Create social awareness and participation in the planning and implementation of mitigation, preparedness and prevention measures to reduce losses from catastrophic floods (and other hazards);
- Contribute to poverty alleviation measures and better living conditions of the poor, by protecting private and social assets, promoting private and social medium- and long-term investment, and providing employment opportunities and skills;
- Strengthen community development to carry out shared responsibilities for the rehabilitation and reconstruction, protection and increase of social and public services and infrastructure -- with the people themselves assessing and ordering their needs, planning and carrying out remedies and maintaining them;
- Contribute to environmental conservation and upgrading actions to protect productive and human settlement resources involving public and community participation.

Development-oriented reconstruction and preparedness **actions** would:

- Determine and **define priorities** of what is to be rehabilitated, reconstructed and protected, in terms of land use and water-control infrastructure, human settlements, and environmentally-degraded areas;
- **Establish priority areas**, where medium- to high-risk prone settlements, subregions and regions are located, to determine and converge types of actions, not only in terms of vulnerability to natural disasters and their consequences, but to those living in poverty;
- Introduce **protective measures** as part of an integrated approach.

Environmental upgrading projects would be designed for different situations requiring protection measures, such as watershed and water-catchment areas and the flood plains of river basins.

Community organizations, local and district authorities, union councils and NGOs would coordinate their actions and make efficient use of resources. Training of communities would include disaster management capacity (response to early warning, evacuation methods, protection of homes, first-aid and sanitation, risk evaluation); improved building techniques and community development issues -- to be imparted before, during and after a disaster, to create a cumulative response.

Community participation can be enhanced and stimulated through various types of incentives, such as part-payment of wages, provision of and/or credit for building materials and food assistance schemes such as food-for-work for self-help activities, part-payment for wages, income transfer, budgetary support to local authorities -- as confirmed by World Food Programme (WFP) experiences.

Information on improved building techniques, for example, would use easy-to-understand graphic manuals, cards, and traveling demonstrations to promote improved traditional construction for plinths, foundations and floors -- using baked brick stone, cement or lime mortar. These improvements could be explained by relief agencies at camps and evacuation centres while waiting for the waters to recede. During the return-to-village period after the disaster, union and district councils, district authorities, NGOs and community organizations may be used to distribute such information. As work begins, external assistance and bilateral agencies (UNCHS, Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and WFP for example), building-materials manufacturers and suppliers (brickmakers, *taliwallas*) will be involved, as may university students and technical government groups.

The support of research and development programmes with universities, specialized institutes and the construction industry would be an ongoing effort, as would training within the community. Community participation is already seen in union and district councils, which work in close association with local and district authorities. Infrastructure and education have improved as a result. These efforts must be coordinated with those of governmental and other bodies, and at a much larger scale.

Only then can a truly integrated approach be put in place to the benefit of the people, their communities, and the human settlements organizations and donors.

UNCHS (HABITAT) IN THE ARAB WORLD

Arab Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies

The Arab Regional Conference on National Shelter Strategies (NSSs) was held at the headquarters of the League of Arab States, Cairo, Egypt, from 13 to 17 December 1992, as noted in the previous issue of this newsletter.

This article is extracted from a speech delivered by Mr. Daniel Biau of UNCHS (Habitat) during the panel discussion on multilateral and bilateral cooperation at that Conference. A specific report on UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with the Arab States is available from UNCHS (Habitat) on request. Further details on the Conference itself may be found in volume 6, Number 1 of the UNCHS (HABITAT) SHELTER BULLETIN, currently in preparation.

UNCHS (Habitat) cooperation with the Arab States

This report presents the characteristics of the human settlements sector in the Arab States, as well as the needs for technical assistance, and describes various projects being supported by UNCHS (Habitat). The last chapter of the report defines the priorities of that agency in the Arab States, in the framework of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000, adopted in December 1988 by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and also in that of the human settlements component of Agenda 21, adopted in June 1992 by the United Nations Conference on Environment, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

UNCHS (Habitat)'s priorities in the Arab States may be classified under three broad categories: policy advice, capacity-building, and assistance to multi-sectoral projects.

Policy advice

UNCHS (Habitat) has a mandate to provide policy advice to Member States. The first area of advice relates to **national shelter strategies** (NSSs). UNCHS could provide assistance to Arab States in all aspects of preparing, implementing and monitoring sustainable NSSs. Among the key areas which could be covered, the following are of particular importance: restructuring the institutional framework of housing policy, basic urban infrastructure, land development, land and housing finance, construction industry and building materials.

At the present stage, the Centre is ready to assist Arab Governments, particularly in improving the monitoring of the shelter sector. Shelter performance indicators have been defined, and were presented and discussed in detail during the Cairo Conference. UNCHS could assist in establishing appropriate databanks, in developing data-collection methods and in testing the key shelter indicators at national or city level.

The second area of advice refers to **urban development policy and urban management**. Here UNCHS (Habitat) could help the Governments of Arab States and local authorities in identifying critical urban management issues, in order to strengthen the delivery, operation and maintenance of physical infrastructure and urban services such as roads, water and electricity supply, solid-waste collection, commercial and social facilities.

With the financial support of UNDP and in collaboration with the World Bank, UNCHS (Habitat) in 1986 launched a ten-year inter-regional programme, known as UMP. In the framework of this Programme, appropriate policies and tools are being developed in the areas of municipal finance and administration, land management, infrastructure management and the urban environment.

UNCHS (Habitat) is ready to assist the Arab States, upon request, in organizing country consultations on urban development policies and urban management issues.

As far as policy is concerned, the third priority area is to promote **regional exchanges** among the countries of the Arab region, through policy seminars and workshops. These policy seminars may cover various aspects of national shelter strategies, and of urban management as well. They are often organized in collaboration with regional organizations, such as the League of Arab States and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Capacity-building

Besides policy advice, UNCHS (Habitat) has the mandate of developing and reinforcing the capacities of Member States in the field of human settlements. Therefore, capacity-building constitutes a top priority in its assistance to the Arab States.

By capacity-building is meant both institutional strengthening and human-resource development. This area includes the organization of training courses for policy-makers and government officials, as well as training of trainers and dissemination of training materials.

UNCHS (Habitat)'s future activities could cover the following fields:

1.Strengthening the policy and strategy formulation process of *central-government* agencies;

2.Strengthening the managerial capacity of *local authorities, at the city level;*

3. Strengthening the capacities of existing *training* institutions and *research* centres;

4. Strengthening the *data management capacity* of technical ministries and local authorities;

5. Strengthening the role of *Arab women* in human settlements development.

The main objective of the present phase of UMP is to build urban management capacities in the developing world. A regional coordination unit of UMP, based in Cairo, was therefore established in December 1992 -- to coordinate related activities in the Arab States. It will also support the development of Arab expertise in the field of urban management.

Assistance to multi-sectoral projects

Policy advice and capacity-building are the two main priorities of UNCHS (Habitat). However, the Centre also has a role to play at the operational level, particularly in assisting complex multi-sectoral projects and programmes in the field. This is its third priority.

UNCHS (Habitat) can support several kinds of projects, among them:

1. *Resettlement* projects targeted towards low-income displaced populations and *reconstruction* projects in towns and cities affected by natural and/or human-made disasters;

2. Physical *sites-and-services and settlements upgrading schemes* in least developed Arab Countries;

3. *"Sustainable City"* projects, introducing environmental planning and management techniques into city-wide strategic planning.

UNCHS (Habitat) is basically an executing agency, not a funding agency. This means that its assistance is usually funded by the UNDP and by the Governments themselves, particularly as far as long-term projects and programmes are concerned. The report itself has further information.

■ Bahrain

In November 1992, an international consultant was fielded for a two-week mission. He prepared a draft project document for a new project entitled **"Energy Conservation"**, with an estimated budget of $US138,000 and a duration of twelve months. The project is expected to be executed by the Ministry of Public Works, Power and Water, while UNCHS (Habitat) will be the cooperating agency. The University of Bahrain will play a major role in providing national consultants. In December 1992, the draft project document was submitted to the Government of Bahrain through the UNDP Field Office for final consideration and endorsement.

■ Djibouti

The August 1992 edition of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS carried an article on project DJI/89/005, DJI/86/C04, Social Housing at Balbala, involving several partners (Government of Djibouti, UNCDF, UNDP, and UNCHS (Habitat)).

Since then, this project has made considerable progress.

- Cooperation agreements have been established between the numerous national bodies involved (District of Djibouti, Ministry of Public Works, Société Immobilière de Djibouti/Real Estate Corporation, Development Bank of Djibouti, etc.), thereby strengthening the national institutional framework with regard to implementation of housing and urban development operations;
- Detailed studies on how to develop the foreseen 37-ha settlement area with regard to the introduction of basic infrastructure (roads, drainage, water and electricity), the provision of dry pit latrines and the provision of approximately 1400 plots have been undertaken by an Arab consulting firm;
- Tender documents -- including all technical and administrative sub-documents -- have been produced by the same firm, and a possible executing enterprise has been selected;
- Potential beneficiaries of plot allotments have been registered;
- A draft proposal on the setting-up of a self-help approach in housing construction has been outlined.

The project, the first visible result of the Government's newly-formulated housing policy to meet the needs of the low-income majority of the capital's population, is therefore progressing in line with the anticipated approach.

However, there have been delays in the production of site development studies and bidding documents, and in the strengthening of the Real Estate Corporation's capacity to handle the complex preparation, control and monitoring of secondary and tertiary infrastructure construction.

Both matters have resulted in an approximately three to four months' delay within the first 15 months of project operation, which will have to be compensated for in the remaining 33 months of the project's anticipated duration.

■ Egypt

Project EGY/91/030 -- **Sustainable Ismailia**-- began operating in January 1993. Preparation of an Ismailia Environmental Profile is underway. When finished, the Profile should help decision-makers select the most important cross-cutting issues to be addressed during the first Consultation scheduled for May 1993. In addition, the Consultation should coordinate strategies to tackle those issues, and set sector-specific action plans.

■ Kuwait

A one-week mission was conducted by a senior staff member in February 1993, to assess the present situation of the human settlements sector and identify potential areas of cooperation. As a follow-up, international consultants are being identified to undertake two major tasks:

- A three-week formulation mission to draft a project document on cooperation with Kuwait Municipality. A staff member specialized in training will simultaneously undertake a one-week mission. **Training and capacity-building** are specified as Government priorities in the Country Programme Development Plan.
- Another three-week mission to formulate the programme for an **international architectural competition** for the design, and eventual construction, of the Islamic Antiquities Museum.

United Nations Resident Coordinator/ UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Khaled Philby was supportive, while senior national officials also welcomed cooperation with UNCHS (Habitat). This would be the first example of direct cooperation between Kuwait and UNCHS (Habitat).

■ The Arab Libyan Jamarihiya

Project LIB/91/X01 - Settlement Planning and Training is now developing new inputs such as an international consultant on urban planning administration and management for two months; two United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) specialized in urban planning and architecture/planning for 24 months each; and five national consultants on NSS, rural economy, water-resources management, urban design policy, and Arabic terminology of settlements planning and development respectively.

With these new inputs, the project is taking on an additional role, that of strengthening the recently-established National Physical Planning Agency which has been given more responsibilities (such as encouraging tourism and encouraging the private sector) in view of the recent fundamental decision to decentralize, and to create self-supporting local government units.

Both the project's National Director and the Chief Technical advisor (CTA) participated, and each presented a paper as resource persons, in the National Symposium on Urbanization and Urban Planning in Libya, which was held at Bengazi, on 17 and 18 October 1992.

■ Tunisia

In July 1992 a mission to Tunis was undertaken by an international consultant for one month, jointly with a staff member.

The consultant formulated a draft project document entitled "Urban growth and sustainable development in Tunis". The expected project site is the Sebkha of Sejoumi, Tunis. The estimated budget is about $US450,000 - and the duration, 18 months.

The project falls within the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP), and aims at strengthening urban environmental planning and management, preparing a dynamic integrated plan, and formulating a public investment strategy.

The project is expected to be nationally executed by Tunis Municipality, with UNCHS (Habitat) as cooperating agency.

■ United Arab Emirates

From 17 to 30 September 1992, a UNCHS senior staff member undertook a mission to

- prepare terms of reference for NSS formulation for Dubai Emirate,
- advise the Ministry of Public Works and Housing on preparing the NSS report to the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, and
- outline strategies conducive to improving the current shelter conditions in UAE.

The mission submitted its recommendation to the Government for consideration. Further cooperation is expected as a follow-up to this mission.

Concepción, Chile, joins the Sustainable Cities Programme

The Government of Chile and UNCHS (Habitat) have agreed to include a Chilean metropolitan area in the global SCP. Concepción, a metropolis of nearly one million inhabitants in the southern region of the country, is now in the Programme, the agreement having recently been signed at a public ceremony in the office of the Minister of Housing and Urban Development in Chile.

SCP began in 1990 and anticipated reaching a dozen cities in developing countries by the end of 1991. The projects in each city aimed to strengthen the municipal capacity for environmental planning and management, to improve the increased use of natural resources, and to mitigate natural disasters. The overall objective was to support sustainable development in the participating cities and to gain knowledge from their experiences which could be applied usefully in other urban areas.

Government officials requested, through the Ministry's Under Secretary, that the Concepción metropolitan area be chosen as a pilot city for SCP. The proposed project would be carried out over two years at a total cost of approximately $US340,000. $US90,000, about a quarter of the total, would be provided by the Government of Chile through the Ministry mentioned above. The funding proposed by the Government of Italy will, together with counterpart contributions, cover at least the first year of the project, during which time efforts will be made to mobilize additional resources; negotiations with UNDP for cost-sharing have already started. Additional funding is being sought from the "social" and private sector to invest in specific sub-projects to be identified and formulated by the SCP team.

Interviews and research carried out by the mission confirm the fact that metropolitan Concepción can boast a number of environmental initiatives as well as many studies, projects, human resources and interested and concerned communities. Alongside these very positive points, the project has detected a series of problems which need to be addressed: inadequate capacity to develop and carry out projects, insufficient intersectoral coordination and communication, the lack of any form of metropolitan government -- all factors which have so far prevented effective environmental planning and management from taking place.

To remedy these problems, the project proposes that the SCP programme in Concepción follow the form of workshops for environmental planning and management. Conceived as a form of bringing together the various actors in local development -- from the private, "social" and public sectors and from top executives to community representatives -- the workshops would deal with specific problems on three levels: the metropolitan area, the individual municipalities which make up the metropolitan area, and the neighbourhoods.

Thus the workshops would, it is hoped, provide three solutions in one: offer environmental solutions in the form of bankable projects to be executed as follow-ups to SCP, set the stage for networks of intersectoral communication and coordination on a metropolitan level, and provide on-the-job training in environmental planning and management. In designing these workshops, the mission took advantage of the experience

of the Chilean NGO Sur, which has given training programmes on municipal management and planning for many years. Sur has found that the best way to train managers and planners is to give them the opportunity to plan, to manage and to carry out real projects following the theme "learning by doing", which is applied to the proposed project.

Administratively the project would come directly under the aegis of the regional office of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, but would work closely with a consultative committee drawn from local public authorities, and with a resource committee drawn from local "social" and private sectors.

Far left: Irene Vance,Chief Technical Advisor for the Community Participation Project in Bolivia

Women in Human Settlements Development

■ Interview with CTA Irene Vance

At the Women's Seminar covered in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, Irene Vance, Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) for the Community Participation Project in Bolivia, (see previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS), granted us a mini interview.

What is your role as CTA?

It is to support and advise a local team of professionals in the running of the Community Participation Project both in terms of efficient administration of resources, and providing them with ideas and feedback on how to plan, organize and carry out community and institutional training for community participation in low-income neighbourhoods. At present, I am guiding the process of creating a self-sustaining foundation so that those professionals can continue the work and consolidate the experience gained by the project in the five years it has run.

As far as your role is concerned, what significance does being a woman have?

I think being a woman is a real asset, particularly since one of the key areas of the Project's work is finding ways to assist communities to upgrade and improve their living conditions and environment. Women are key actors in this decision-making process. Thus, as a woman I consider it helps the team of professional staff to have a woman advisor in this task, especially in ensuring that there is a **gender-aware perspective** in the approach to providing technical assistance to community groups with whom they work.

What positive elements or constraints have you encountered in your work with governments, NGOs or CBOs that you attribute to being a woman?

No constraints as such, since in Bolivia there are no problems arising out of gender in the workplace. Ironically, where I feel **"more of an island"** as a woman is **within the international agencies**, especially where women are under-represented, particularly at the level of technical advisor.

How do you see women's role in the human settlements process? Can you give some concrete examples of WHY this participation is crucial?

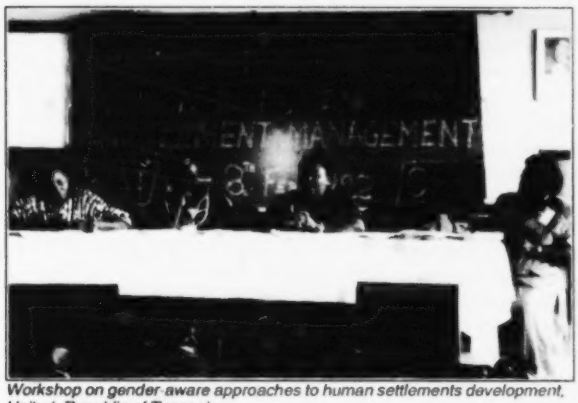
Women's role in non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, government and United Nations agencies is a right on the one hand -- as professionals, as mobilizers and as citizens, since women are aware of the difficulties of lack of services and their impact on their families.

Nonetheless, having said that it is important that women hold key posts in these organizations, and to participate at community level, we need to go beyond that. We need male professionals sensitized, we need them to adapt gender policies. Many women are already very active, but **without a joint and a conscious effort by both men and women to introduce a gender perspective in human settlements, the danger will be to isolate women's needs as "women's problems" to be solved without resources or visibility in mainstream technical support programmes.**

What in your opinion prevents women's fuller participation? What can be done -- personally or as a United Nations body -- to overcome these obstacles?

One of the main obstacles to women's participation is that it is taken as a problem which women address among themselves; it's always the subject of "special" conferences or workshops for women, very seldom with men. This has meant that for almost two decades, international organizations have been happy to fund meetings for women, conducted by women. **We need men to participate not only in our meetings but specifically to have an agenda for men about gender and women's issues.**

At a personal level, in our work in community participation we work with community groups and their organizations, some separately in terms of gender. Women have space and opportunity to address their needs, but also, and more importantly, **men discuss women's needs, and together they then discuss and agree upon strategies for them as families.** This is a difficult process, but in our experience it does, little by little, bring results, overcomes obstacles and, above all, achieves equal status, recognition and respect for women. This is the goal, isn't it?



Workshop on gender aware approaches to human settlements development, United Republic of Tanzania

HIC: Women & Shelter Network Meeting - NGO Global Forum, Rio

Gender component of Training of Local Authorities Workshop, Uganda

Training Workshop for Implementation of the Base-line Survey - CARTAGO, Colombia

UNCHS (Habitat) Women in Human Settlements Development Programme

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS reports regularly on activities of the Women in Human Settlements Programme of the Centre: the regional, interregional, NGO and in-house cooperation and collaboration geared to promoting the advancement of women in human settlements development and management. Although these are only beginnings in the process towards bringing women and gender issues into the mainstream of the human settlements development process, they do help governments, NGOs and CBOs to identify ways to strengthen the role of women and to open the way to continuous discussion and future activities.

The Report of the Executive director on Women's Participation in the GSS (HS/C/14/2/Add.3) outlines future strategies, as follows.

The process of mainstreaming gender issues in the various new and on-going programmes of UNCHS (Habitat) could be enhanced by emphasizing women's participation within such priority areas as decentralization, democratization, participatory approaches to human settlements management, and institutional strengthening.

It is essential to have **gender catalysts** (men and women concerned with gender issues) who will continuously monitor the process and ensure that gender issues are integrated and become operationally visible. One way forward is to ensure that research agenda automatically incorporate a gender dimension as part of effective policy research [Ed. note: See also article on the Africa Urban Forum under UNCHS (Habitat) activities] -- including the use of gender-aware criteria and indicators for monitoring and evaluation, and the collection and publication of sex-disaggregated data. It is also necessary that research include careful analysis of gender relations, and that women are not merely included as statistical examples. A commitment to a process of training and organizational development which fosters gender awareness, gender consultation and gender competence on the part of all professionals (including field staff) is needed.

An **increased awareness**, among UNCHS (Habitat) staff, governments, NGOs and CBOs, of the vital link between improving the status of women and sustaining development initiatives should be sought.

Support should be given to the creation of structures that enable governments to aid the initiatives of women's groups and other CBOs and NGOs. Governments should continue to receive UNCHS (Habitat) support in their efforts to bring women into the mainstream of all aspects of human settlements matters.

In-house staff training is to continue and the information support system is to be enhanced. Emphasis should be placed on practical skills and tools for mainstreaming women. Closer coordination of Women in Development activities between the United Nations agencies should be encouraged.

Added support should be given to the strengthening of **NGOs and CBOs**; and exchange and linking encouraged, especially through national and regional meetings, longer "on-the-job" visits between the different organizations and continuous exchange of information (making use of audio-visual media and other alternative media as well as the written word). UNCHS (Habitat) collaboration with the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) Women and Shelter Network ought to be enhanced in this respect. UNCHS (Habitat) should support the strengthening of institutional capacity among NGOs and CBOs and the training of women, particularly in leadership and management skills. A greater use of **NGOs and women's networks**, especially the HIC Women and Shelter Network, will not only bring new experience and expertise to the forefront but also encourage these networks to see the need for a women's viewpoint in settlement and urban planning. This is essential since much consciousness-raising yet remains to be done to ensure that positive human settlements policies are enacted.

The need to put women, human settlements and **environmentally-sound management** on a firm operational footing is a major challenge for the coming years.

UNCHS (Habitat) has made considerable **progress** in raising awareness of gender issues, urging governments to identify the methods that reveal and strengthen the role of women in settlement and development; strengthening the role and competence of the Centre in gender-sensitive shelter strategy development; increasing its efforts to provide support to governments in this field; assuring adequate financial and administrative support to the Women in Development focal point of the Centre; and, most importantly, developing a more comprehensive policy on women in human settlements development.

Exclusion of women from the human settlements development process not only leaves women worse off, it impoverishes whole societies. Without the full mobilization and participation of women, and the removal of obstacles to their full participation, the goal of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 cannot and will not be met.

City Data Programme: Kenya Pilot Project

Recent activities

Following the one-day workshop of mayors and town clerks from the cities of the Kenya Pilot Project, held at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 12 June 1992, the Steering Committee of the project met on 7 September to discuss the results of the one-day workshop and to prepare for the next phase as scheduled in the project activities.

The next steps in the project involved missions to central Government ministries and departments. Mr. J. Mukui, Statistician/Economist of the Kenya Pilot Project (KPP), visited various Government offices to test the questionnaire developed under the City Data Programme (CDP) and to identify data kept centrally in Nairobi.

In order to establish regularly collected and reported data in the eight project cities/municipalities (Nairobi, Mombasa, Machakos, Thika, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kakamega and Kisumu), missions were undertaken to these places between 8 September and 10 November 1992. Prior to departure all available data collected from ministries and agencies centrally located in Nairobi and related to the cities were prepared for demonstration purposes during the missions.

The missions took five working days in each city, except for Nairobi -- which took nine. Mr. Mukui was accompanied by Mr. P. Kirai and Mr. I. Mundia of the Ministry of Lands and Housing and by Mr. J. Kihara of the Ministry of Local Government -- all of them members of the Steering Committee representing the key ministries in the project, thus ensuring sustainability beyond the pilot phase of the project.

The **objectives** of the missions were:

- To test the City Data Programme questionnaire with a view to making an inventory of regularly collected and reported urban data, and to identify existing data gaps;
- To evaluate available human and material resources, identify training needs for the counterpart staff, and appraise statistical workloads and organizational arrangements in order to determine the additional resources required to establish a well-functioning urban data collection, processing and reporting system.

During the missions, it was observed that a considerable amount of data is generated in the administrative and engineering units of the pilot cities. On the other hand, it was evident that these cities have no systematic and well-organized data collection capacity, as they have no statistical units in their administrations. The city authorities appreciated the role being played by the Kenya Pilot Project in trying to establish a national urban-data collection and dissemination system which will facilitate monitoring and evaluation of their urban conditions and trends.

The consolidated findings of the missions were presented in the form of detailed reports to the fourth Steering Committee meeting held in January 1993. These included proposals for required PC-hardware and software to be installed in the pilot cities. The Committee was very pleased with the results of the missions, endorsed the PC-hardware/software proposals and discussed the next steps in the project. Furthermore, the Committee was informed that the first output of the project, a consultancy report entitled *National Survey of Urban Data Collection and Dissemination Practices in Kenya*, has been completed and is at present being edited for final printing.

The second output of the project requires the development of key urban **indicators** based on the City Data Programme Questionnaire and the experience from the one-week data collection missions. The Steering Committee decided to hold a second technical working group meeting at Gigiri to elaborate a draft set of key indicators which will be discussed with the mayors and town clerks as well as the technical counterpart staff in the pilot cities.

The technical working group recommended a list of indicators which is currently being reviewed and shortened before its submission to the pilot cities. The preliminary list of indicators can be grouped under the following categories: demography, socio-economics, environment, land, housing, infrastructure and services, and municipal finance. After review by the pilot cities, the Steering Committee will approve a final set of key indicators. On this basis, a sample survey will be designed in close collaboration with the Central Bureau of Statistics. The project team which undertook the first one-week mission will carry out a sample survey in the pilot cities with the assistance of enumerators.

The Kenya Pilot Project is funded by the Government of Italy within the framework of the Administrative Arrangements between UNCHS (Habitat) and the Italian Government, signed in Nairobi on 25 June 1991. Please address any further questions on the Kenya Pilot Project to: Coordinator, City Data Programme, P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi.

Regional Seminar on Public Transport in Developing Countries

UNCHS (Habitat) organized a Regional Seminar on Strategic Options for Public Transport Improvements in Large Cities of Developing Countries which was held at Pune, India, from 27 to 28 January 1993. Among 30 participants to the seminar were the representatives of national, state, metropolitan and local governments in India and public transport managers, planners and researchers from the host country and from Bangladesh, the Republic of Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Hong Kong. The International Union of Public Transport was also represented at the seminar by Mr. P. Butynck, Assistant to the Secretary General for Regional Development. Tata Consultancy Services, Bombay, India, acted as a local organizer of the seminar.

Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, the then Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), joined the seminar participants and delivered the opening address. (See box on next page.)

Background

For cities plagued with transport problems, **improvement of public transport is the condition for maintaining the balance between transport, urban growth and the environment.** This was recognized as far back as 1976 by the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements -- which called for a reversal of trends in modes of transport in large cities in favour of mass transport, and for policies which would promote such development of transport that the needs of the majority of the population could be better met, while traffic congestion and the degradation of the environment were reduced. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, reiterated the call for urban transport programmes promoting high-occupancy public transport, and directed the attention of the Member States to the need to ensure an efficient operation of that transport.

Promotion of public transport, provided by both public and private operators, has long been the focal point of the UNCHS (Habitat) activities in the field of transport. In a continuous search for workable strategies, it commissioned the Tata Consultancy Services, Bombay, India, to carry out a study on **"Strategic Options for Public Transport Improvements in Large Cities of Developing Countries"**. The objective was to identify and examine a set of such options, drawing on the experience of selected cities in India: Bangalore, Bombay, Lucknow and Madras. These cities represent various levels of public-transport development; all are heavily dependent on public transport and in each of them the provision of public transport is facing considerable financial, institutional, regulatory and physical constraints. The recently completed study contains an analysis of public-transport performance in these cities and provides a diagnosis of the problems. Based on the findings of this study, a framework for public-transport policy planning has been proposed which focuses on a human settlements management approach to

public-transport improvements. This approach links the improvements of public transport to overall urban development objectives and directs attention to the interactions between public transport, other components of an urban system, and the environment. It seeks the ways to public-transport improvements in actions encompassing both supply and demand. It analyses management-based and investment-intensive options and outlines strategies enabling the implementation of options by appropriate reforms of the financial, regulatory and institutional systems.

The Seminar

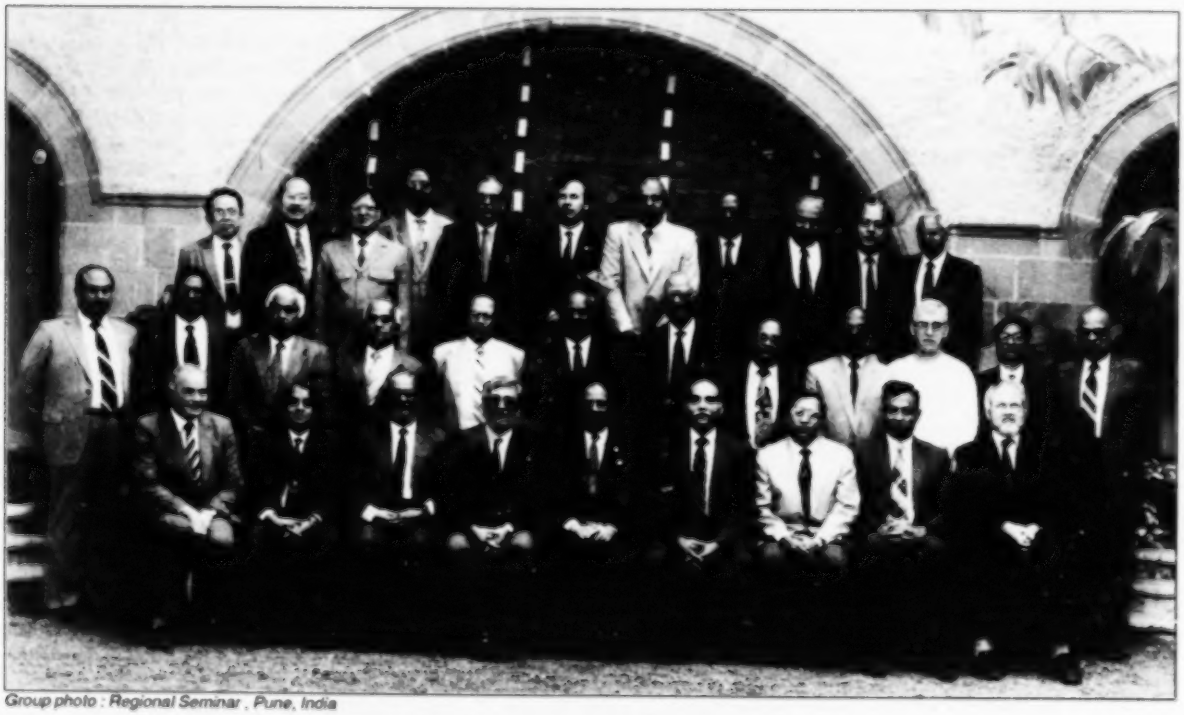
The seminar held at Pune was to disseminate the findings of the study and discuss ways to implement the strategic options it outlined. In the course of four working sessions, the participants became acquainted with the study, considered the strategies for public-transport improvement, and highlighted the opportunities for and constraints to the implementation of presented options, drawing on the experience of their cities and countries. They also identified several topics for research that need to be undertaken in the field of public transport. In the final session, they adopted a set of valuable conclusions and recommendations.

In his opening address, Dr. Arcot Ramachandran, pointed out that the development of urban transport should be an integral part of the overall urban development strategy. He stressed that cities should develop their transport systems, focusing on the objectives of urban productivity and sustainability. He said that for these objectives to be met, large cities should be strongly committed to public transport and make it a backbone of their transport system.

Dr. Ramachandran emphasized the need for substantial investment in public transport. He said that the external economic, social and environmental benefits generated by public transport justified its financing not only by its users, but also by a wide range of non-user beneficiaries. The then Executive Director noted further that although the establishing of a sound financial basis for public transport was crucial, reforming the regulatory framework and the institutional set-up of the industry might also be needed. He felt that the creation of a partially regulated market of public-transport services could significantly increase their supply and efficiency. Institutional reforms should, on the other hand, contribute to the effective use of scarce resources by ensuring that those available are allocated to the most effective transport modes.

The discussion on management-based options for public transport improvement pointed out that in developing countries the time had come to contain the growth of transport demand and to influence people's choice of transport from private to public -- making the latter more efficient, socially equitable, and less pollutant. National policies are needed to manage the growth of large cities, while urban development policies at the metropolitan and local levels must become more sensitive to their impact on transport demand. It was noted that policies aimed at more equal distribution of transport demand and preventing its growth in central areas were already being pursued, for example in Bombay. However, the participants agreed that the integration of land-use and transportation planning was just taking root in urban-management practices in the region. A demand-oriented approach prevailed in transport planning, land-use planning was weak and the instruments for land management were either absent or ineffectively used.

In order to alleviate the impact of fast-growing motorization on public transport, Madras and some other cities had introduced measures that gave it priority: bus-only lanes for example. The participants considered the **improvement of public transport** as the basic tool to slow



Group photo : Regional Seminar , Pune, India

down the growth of motor-vehicle traffic in the cities of the region. Making public-transport services attractive for the various segments of the population (not only to the captive market of the urban poor) was seen to be more appropriate than harsh economic and regulatory measures restraining the individual use of motor vehicles. It was emphasized that urban public transport needed better management and better coordination between modes. Establishing public-transport enterprises specialized in urban transport would serve that purpose.

The discussion in the seminar confirmed the need for substantial investment in public transport as an integral part of large cities' development strategies. It was, however, noted that, given the financial constraints, various options should be considered and evaluated. This should be done with respect to economic, financial and environmental criteria, and with a view to maximizing the efficiency of urban transport at large, supporting sound land-use patterns and contributing to energy saving. Model options such as light-rail transit, busways and better use of railway for urban traffic were of particular interest to the participants.

Most of the participants were convinced that the government should develop public-transport infrastructure and that the revenues it derived from the transport sector at large -- including revenues from fuel, road and vehicle taxes -- should be reinvested in the sector, with priority to public transport. Although the need to attract private capital to the public-transport industry was recognized, those at the seminar saw private-sector involvement mainly in the form of **public/private partnership** in projects which would join together public-transport investments and commercial development of adjacent land. Recovering the costs of public-transport improvements by appropriate government actions on land and other immobile property markets was in general given attention, emphasizing once again the need for an integrated, intersectoral approach to transport development. The need for such management was also stressed with regard to timely preservation of the adequate right-of-way that could facilitate the development of rapid transit in urban areas.

In discussing strategies to be adopted for public-transport improvements, a strong point was made of the need to link public-transport fares more closely to the real costs of the provision of services, and to timely and just compensation of public-transport enterprises for the services rendered on a concessionary basis to socially deserving groups.

Attention was given to the institutional reform of public-transport management. It was said that public-transport authorities should be setup for this purpose at national, subnational and local levels, with a clear definition of their functions, linkages and responsibilities. At the local level, a unified public authority should be responsible for urban transport at large and empowered to carry on inter-modal coordination and traffic management in general. It was also stressed that such authorities should be able to mobilize resources and decide on their allocation to all transport modes, providing for the most efficient use of resources. Public-transport undertakings, while being subordinated, should enjoy autonomy of management -- indispensable for effective running of services, proper maintenance of assets and sound use of human resources.

Follow-up

The findings of the seminar, in particular the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the participants, will serve UNCHS (Habitat) in the preparation of a technical publication on the improvement of public transport in developing countries which will be made available by the end of this year. A report on the seminar, including background documentation, is also being prepared.

Regional Workshop on Waste Recycling/Reuse in Developing Countries

UNCHS (Habitat), supported by the Ministry of Development Cooperation, Government of the Netherlands and in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, organized a Regional Workshop on the Promotion of Waste Recycling and Reuse in Developing Countries at the Asian Development Bank headquarters at Manila from 20 to 22 January 1993. The participants comprised senior policy-makers, local authority managers and representatives from NGOs and private-sector organizations. Ten countries were represented from the Asian region: Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

Addressing the opening meeting, UNCHS (Habitat) the then Executive Director, Dr. Ramachandran spoke of the rapidly increasing quantities of solid waste which were due to urban population growth and changing consumption patterns.

He mentioned that it was at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) which took place last year that the Centre and the Commission on Human Settlements had made possible the adoption of an integrated approach to solid-waste management which included, in order of priority:

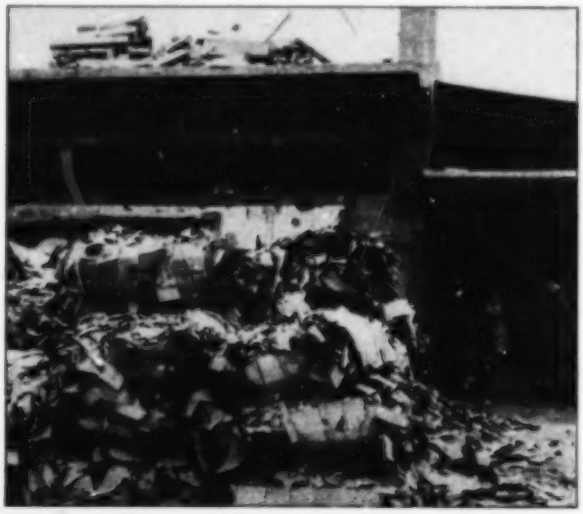
- Minimizing the production of waste,
- Maximizing waste recycling and reuse,
- Promoting safe waste disposal, and
- Increasing waste disposal service coverage.

Dr. Ramachandran noted that some 50 per cent of waste could be recycled and though the current level of recycling was rather small, there were options available at both national and local government levels to stimulate recycling. He mentioned three areas where intervention could provide results in the short-term:

- The application of user charges,
- Supporting resource segregation and recovery, and
- Supporting resource reprocessing.

Background

Rapid urbanization and the associated growth of industry and services is a key feature of economic and demographic development in most developing countries. Cities are currently absorbing two thirds of the total population increase throughout the developing world. At this rate some 1.9 billion people will populate the urban areas of developing countries by the year 2000, representing an additional 600 million urban dwellers over the next decade. Another striking trend is the steady growth in the size of cities. Today, natural increases rather than migration constitutes the major source of urban growth. The number of developing-



Recycling and reuse of various materials in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand

country cities with over half a million inhabitants currently exceeds 360. In Asia alone, the number of cities of this size grew from 59 in 1960 to 128 in 1985.

One of the most important environmental consequences of this process of urbanization is the amount of solid waste that is generated. These wastes have fast outstripped the ability of the natural environment to assimilate them and municipal authorities to dispose of them in a safe and efficient manner. The resulting contamination affects all environmental media and has a directly negative effect on human health and the quality of urban life. In addition, the world's natural resources are depleted and energy used inefficiently.

Many developed countries are now considering waste recycling to reduce the increasing costs of various disposal methods and availability of landfill space. By taking action now to maximize the processes whereby wastes may be reused, developing countries can ensure that, as the quantity and quality of solid waste increases, its disposal will not take place to the detriment of the environment. In developing countries, authorities still favour capital-intensive solid-waste handling equipment, but a focus on waste recycling and reuse would enable a significant reduction in such investment. It is in this context that UNCHS (Habitat) has undertaken a substantive study on the promotion of waste recycling and reuse in developing countries.

Objectives

The overall **development** objective was to contribute to developing-country governments' efforts and capacities to abate the degradation of the environment, and to identify and promote economically-efficient, environmentally-sound practices for managing municipal solid wastes that take advantage of waste reuse.

Field studies had been undertaken in five countries in the Asian region: India, Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand. The results of the field work were presented at five city-based workshops, organized by UNCHS (Habitat) and held in each location during August and September 1992, the objective being to document the collective experience in these cities, particularly institutional and technical requirements and their problems and constraints.

The Regional Workshop provided an opportunity to the participants from a wider range of countries to analyse the various experiences of the region and to identify the positive ideas which could be replicated in other countries.

The objectives of the **Workshop** itself were:

- To disseminate the findings of research and study on waste recycling and reuse among policy-makers, municipal managers and prospective entrepreneurs associated with recycling and reuse of domestic waste;
- To establish a sustainable regional network of research institutions, non-governmental organizations and national and international agencies to promote waste recycling and reuse.
- To identify possible follow-up activities.

Outputs

The Workshop produced the following outputs:

- A report on the proceedings of the seminar, including conclusions, recommendations and background documentation; and
- A regional network on waste recycling and reuse -- nodal institutions in each country have been identified, and audio-visual outputs will be disseminated in due course.

The proceedings of the Workshop will be used by UNCHS (Habitat) to prepare a publication on "The Promotion of Waste Recycling and Reuse in Developing Countries" covering policies, organization and methods.

See Information Initiatives for a review of the UNCHS (Habitat) video *Waste Not, Want Not*, which was also shown at the Workshop.

Follow-up research activities

The following areas were identified for future research:

(i) Projects designed to increase awareness of the benefits of recycling for the general public, municipal authorities and industry;

(ii) Rigorous economic evaluations of waste recycling and reuse schemes for industrialists;

(iii) Increased pilot-scale demonstration projects for separation-at-source schemes.

(iv) Development of appropriate composting and digestion systems for the treatment/disposal of the organic fraction of municipal solid waste.

Policies for local government training under discussion

Some 35 key actors in the field of local government management training met for a Senior Level Seminar on National Policies for Local Government Training in South Asian Countries, held at Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 10 to 14 November 1992. Participants enjoyed the hospitality provided by the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration (SLIDA). The function -- which was attended by senior policy-makers and experts including heads of relevant training institutions from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka -- aimed at exchange of experiences regarding development and the implementation of national policies for local government training, the discussion of innovative approaches, and the exploration of possibilities for training-related collaboration in the South Asian region.

The first sessions of the Seminar were devoted to the presentation of country papers on the current status of national policy for local government training in each country of the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Country presentations were followed by a lively interchange of questions, answers and opinions. Later the Seminar turned into a workshop-like activity by subdividing the group into three working teams taking different perspectives (national, local-government and training-institution) on various tasks of policy-making in order to develop local government human resources. All three teams undertook to **identify three tasks**:

- Key local government **demands/challenges** by the year 2000 that can be addressed through human-resource-development interventions;
- **Performance criteria** (guidelines, standards) by which human-resource-development policies and interventions in/by/for local governments should be evaluated -- given the demands and challenges identified;
- Key **policy stands and operational strategies** that need to be implemented to meet the demands and challenges based on those criteria.

Explorations on the three tasks were assisted by a UNCHS (Habitat) background discussion paper entitled "The art of developing policies and strategies to guide investments in local government human resource development".

As the next step, participants elaborated in plenary a general format on how to prepare a draft national training policy for local governments. After discussing the outline, each country team drafted a national policy statement on local government training in its home country -- based on the model developed earlier. The draft proposals were later presented and discussed country-by-country in plenary; conclusions were summarized in a special paper. An exchange of ideas on future activities to improve the performance of local governments concluded the programme.

By organizing the Senior Level Seminar on National Policies for Local Government Training, UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs, implemented the top recommendation of an Expert Workshop on Regional Strategy for Local Government Training in South Asia held at Pokhara, Nepal, in December 1991. (See article, pp. 27-8 of the April 1992 issue of this newsletter.) Further activities as agreed by the Pokhara workshop and confirmed by the Colombo seminar will be a Policy Workshop on NGO/Local Government Cooperation for Local Development, and a Training of Trainers Course on Local Government Management for teams from national and provincial local government training institutions.

The keynote address to participants of the Senior Level Policy Seminar on National Policies for Local Government Training in South Asia, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, was delivered by Hon. Festus Perera, Minister of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Home Affairs of Sri Lanka

Creative work in small teams in the course of the seminar on draft proposals of national policies for local government training in each participating country

Seminars on strengthening and enabling community management

The UNCHS (Habitat) Community Management Programme will this year organize three seminars on strengthening and enabling community management. The first event is a **regional seminar** which will take place at Quito, Ecuador, in June, with participants from the Community Management Programme at UNCHS (Habitat) headquarters and in Costa Rica, project staff from similar projects in the Andean region, staff from ministries and municipalities, and from NGOs.

The main objective of the Ecuador seminar is to discuss and share the first experiences and achievements of the Ecuador project with those involved in similar projects in the region. Two important project issues will receive special attention:

(a) empowerment of residents, and (b) integrated institutional support. Details are given in the box.

Empowerment of residents

Basic training in community organization and participation: organization/gender/conflict solving/meetings/needs assessments...

Organizing communities: legal status of community organizations, representative structures ensuring minority representation

Community action planning: community-based monitoring and evaluation, community information systems, preparation of local development plans/options and community contracts systems (employment generation)

Community development activities: awareness building (environment-organization-job training, etc.), technical and vocational training, employment generation, enterprise support (economic programmes), social programmes, and environmental programmes

Building bridges to outside communities: linking to other communities/neighbourhoods, cooperation with public authorities, ensuring representation, ensuring long-term support, promoting participation in macro-planning (district level), and participating in partnerships (residents/private/public).

integrated institutional support

Inadequate public sector policies and administration: uncontrolled urban growth, economic decline, increasing impoverishment in low-income settlements, and uneven distribution of public services.

A new approach: enabling community management, facilitating local planning and action, economizing human and financial resources, removing obstacles in the public sector, and capacity- and awareness-building in the public sector.

Decentralization - democratization: delegation of authority to lower levels in the public sector, linking macro- and micro-planning (from neighbourhood to city level), and direct funding of community activities

From conventional to strategic approach at municipal and local government level: involving communities, enabling community management, partnership frameworks (public-private-residents), integrating economic, social and physical planning in local development, linking municipal/local government and community development plans, community development committees, community action planning, and government support functions.

In October, an **international seminar** will take place at Copenhagen, Denmark. At that meeting, the results of the gathering in Quito will be presented for discussion by a wider audience. The purpose of this seminar is to present the major achievements of the global community development programme (incorporating both the training programme and the community management programme and including projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America) to a broad range of professionals, researchers and project staff from the different regions. It is expected that the seminar discussions will contribute substantially to furthering strategies and methodologies to empower residents. They can then take part in local development and the building up of institutional structures and capacity, which can in turn enable an integrated process of social, economic and physical development to take place in low-income urban and rural settlements.

At the end of the year, **another regional seminar** will take place, in Costa Rica to discuss and share with those from similar projects in the Central American region, the first experiences and achievements of the Community Management Programme's Costa Rican project. In addition, the viability of setting up a regional programme for community management will be discussed.

Regional Workshop on Community Participation in Zambia

The Community Development Programme in cooperation with the Government of Zambia is organizing a Regional Workshop to be held at Ndola, Zambia, from 17 to 21 May 1993. The goal is to disseminate the strategy of the Community Participation Training Programme in Zambia to a selected number of governments in the African region, and to consult on means of setting up a regional structure of the Programme. Government officials and NGO representatives from 10 to 12 countries will be invited to participate. As a result of the Workshop, these countries will be in a position to set up similar projects, with assistance from UNCHS (Habitat), and establish a **regional network** on capacity-building in urban community development.

The Workshop will take an interactive approach on the subject of community participation in improving human settlements, emphasizing the changing role of the government in an enabling strategy. It will include visits to a number of the project areas in Zambia. All resource persons for this Workshop will be from Zambia, and are expected to contribute their experiences with the Community Participation Training Programme.

Urban areas, the environment and energy: Putting Agenda 21 into action

At the request of the Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), co-sponsored by the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden and organized jointly by UNCHS (Habitat), the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), Rotterdam, the Netherlands and the Lund Centre for Habitat Studies (LCHS), Lund, Sweden, an ad-hoc expert-group meeting on urban areas, the environment and energy in the context of Agenda 21 (the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) took place from 8 to 12 March, 1993 at Lund, Sweden.

Fifteen experts, six of them women, from 12 developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and an expert from the United States of America participated in the meeting, bringing to bear on the discussions expertise and experience from such diverse fields as urban transport, energy, environmental planning and management and gender-related issues.

The objective of the meeting was to provide a forum of independent experts to:

- Discuss and advise on appropriate strategies for

implementing human settlements related goals of *Agenda 21*, with special emphasis on urban areas, the environment and energy; and

- Make specific recommendations for the preparatory work of the 1996 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in the field of urban areas, the environment and energy. This meeting is the first event organized after UNCED on relevant follow-up actions in those specific areas.

During the opening session, the meeting was addressed by a senior representative of UNCHS (Habitat) on behalf of Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Under-Secretary-General of UNCHS (Habitat); Mrs. Gorell Thurdin, Minister of Physical Planning of Sweden; and Mr. Enneurs Heerma, State Secretary for Housing, Physical Planning and Environment of the Netherlands. Keynote addresses were delivered by the Chief of the Urban Development Division of the World Bank, Mr. Michael Cohen; and the Chief of the Research and Development Division of UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Pietro Garau.

After four days of intensive discussions focusing on household- and transport-related energy use in urban areas, its impact on the environment and the need for capacity-building, especially at the local level, the expert group produced a comprehensive set of recommendations for the successful implementation of the Agenda 21 recommendations relating to environmentally sound urban energy planning and management.

These recommendations stressed the need to provide equitable access to basic services to all citizens, particularly the urban poor, in an environmentally-sound manner. Win-win options that combine socio-economic gains with environmental and energy efficiency benefits required special attention. As intensive users of household energy and the indoor environment, women could play a central role in energy and environmental management. It was felt that there was an urgent need to promote decentralized and democratic decision-making processes that maximize citizens' participation and the use of local resources in urban development programmes.

The meeting further suggested that during the Habitat II preparatory phase, a common framework for evaluating the sustainability of urban development should be developed. Similarly, a network that could facilitate South-South, North-South and national-level exchange of information and provide a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of Agenda 21 within the context of urban energy and shelter should be established.

At the concluding session, the representatives of the Governments of the Netherlands and Sweden expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the meeting, noting the immediate usefulness of the recommendations in the preparatory process leading to Habitat II.

The full report of the meeting will be distributed to all delegations at the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements in April 1993.

INFORMATION INITIATIVES

Group photo from the IAA/UNEP training course

IAA/UNEP training course on human settlements and environment

The International Academy of Architecture (IAA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organized and jointly held the first training course on the three-volume UNEP/UNCHS (Habitat) ***Environmental Guidelines for Settlement Planning and Management***, as a follow-up action to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The training course took place at the IAA Santo Kiriko Creativity Centre, Assenovgrad, Bulgaria, between 11 and 22 September 1992.

The training participants came from Bulgaria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The course was conducted by Professor Arch. G. Stoilov, President of IAA with Mr. Yinka Adebayo from UNEP, Mr. Lars Ludvigsen from UNCHS (Habitat), Mr. Eric Giroult from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UNEP consultants Mr. Haile-Lul Getahun from Ethiopia and Mr. George Zamayev from Russia. It was coordinated by Mr. Sergei Stepanov, IAA General Director, Project Coordinator.

The participants discussed country monographs and presentations, especially those revealing environmental problems in Islamabad and Cairo. The participants felt that the course could be of importance for future settlements planning and proposed that this pilot course be the first of a series of such training exercises. They welcomed the idea of preparing a Manual on Application of Environmental Guidelines for Settlements Planning and Management as a basis for further environmental educational programmes, and a Code of Principles on "Ecopolis-Sustainable Cities". A draft outline for the manual was prepared and approved for publication by the IAA.

World Habitat Awards: call for entries 1993

The Building and Social Housing Foundation is now calling for entries for the 1993 World Habitat Awards. Preliminary submissions, in English -- from individuals, firms or other formally registered organizations -- should reach B+SHF by 31 July 1993.

Each scheme must be capable of being financially self-supporting or of attracting private or public funding, and should have the capacity of being applied in principle throughout wide areas of the developed or developing world as appropriate. Schemes are sought which identify human settlements projects that offer sustainable futures to the residents and present practical and imaginative solutions to current problems, with preference to those which view human settlements from a broad perspective (add essing associated problems of unemployment, diminishing energy reserves and a sustainable future).

Suggested topics follow.

Developed countries

1. Inner-city decay of housing and environment
2. Decline in towns and cities where the main source of employment has disappeared
3. Sustainable lifestyles in urban and/or rural areas
4. Energy-efficient housing
5. Housing on a cooperative basis
6. Provision of shelter for the homeless

Developing countries

1. Provision of low-cost housing for the poorest sector of the population
2. Sustainable lifestyles in urban and/or rural areas
3. Energy-efficient housing
4. Slum dwellings and shantytowns of large urban areas
5. Housing on a cooperative basis
6. Provision of shelter for the homeless.

Further information from: Mr. Peter Elderfield, B+SHF, Memorial Square, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 3TU, UK. Phone 44 (0)530 510444; Fax 44 (0)530 510332.

NEW FROM HABITAT

Book

■ **Community Participation in Zambia: The Danida/UNCHS Training Programme**, vi plus 56 pp., figures, tables, references, HS/272/92 E; ISBN 91-1-131-201-9

The Training Programme for Community Participation in Improving Human Settlements in Zambia, begun in 1984, has now gone through two of three phases. This report examines its impact, and looks in particular at the process involved, highlighting some of the lessons learnt.

The programme is definitely a success: 17 upgrading programmes are in action, and the living and working environments of 180,000 urban poor are being improved.

Figure 5. Example of training material using comic book approach

But why and how? What is the relevance elsewhere?

This report looks at some of the factors making for sustainability. Critical factors in the Zambian programme are outlined. Technical assistance/staffing should be modest, and the demands of scale and complexity of operation should not exceed the capacity of the normal system. Emphasize institutional development rather than physical products, control financial inputs through normal systems, gear the time-frame to local realities (not external priorities), and focus on the process rather than the blueprint.

Particular features with relevance beyond Zambia are seen as the process approach, the roles assigned to local government and communities, and the key role of training both of local government staff and the community -- with immediate linking to learning-by-doing via implementation in the upgrading of squatter areas.

Serial

■ **Journal of the Network of African countries on local building materials and technologies** ISSN 1012-9812

This edition of the *Journal* focuses on walling materials and related research work carried out in some countries of the Africa region: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius and Nigeria -- plus technology profiles from India. Very often the walling and roofing materials of low-cost houses constitute more than 75 per cent of the total cost. Hence the need to reduce their cost of production while improving their physical properties, leading in turn to increased acceptability and popularity.

The *Journal* welcomes information or articles on low-cost innovations in building materials technology. Information in the form of technical papers, illustrations, news items and announcements of events are invited from individuals in the private or pubic sector, from within and outside the Africa region. All correspondence should be addressed to its editor, Mr. Kalyan Ray, c/o UNCHS (Habitat).

Video

■ **Waste Not, Want Not**, PAL format, 28 min., UNCHS (Habitat) with the Ministry of Development Co-operation of the Government of the Netherlands

Waste generation in the developing countries of the Asian world, as elsewhere, is growing with the rise in urban population and changing consumption patterns. Plastic products, for example, have now displaced hundreds of traditional household articles -- be it in Bangkok, Manila or Kanpur -- with irreversible consequences not just for the producers of traditional articles and their consumers, but for the natural environment itself.

Yet garbage collection and disposal practices there provide a good example of the possibilities of waste reclamation, reuse and recycling, carried out primarily by the private informal sector and driven largely by poverty rather than by conscious public awareness or enlightened national policy. Householders, workers, scavengers, waste traders or dealers are all involved. The recovered materials come from housing or industrial estates or from garbage dumps.

Formal sector efforts, however, are not as successful. They often use technology designed for developed countries, where domestic waste contains a much higher non-organic component. Hence compactor trucks are less effective in terms of cost or effort, and capital-intensive installations for mechanical waste separation have failed both economically and, often, technically. Thus open dumping continues to be the most common means of disposal -- polluting soil and water resources.

Yet the informal sector employs simple, highly effective technology to recycle garbage -- be it plastic bags, used tins, old tyres, shoes, glass, or paper. From such factories flow plastic granules, dustpans, bangles, and "second-generation" metal, paper and shoes. These labour-intensive operations play an important part in the lives of the poor, and in urban waste management. Much can be done to enhance their economic viability and improve their environmental impact.

These efforts can be supported by:

- preventing the importation of waste (e.g., plastic) from abroad;
- assisting recycling industries, e.g., by offering access to credit or marketing assistance;
- improving working conditions in terms of health and safety;
- promoting the use of recycled materials by the formal sector as well;
- mobilizing the public to participate in separating categories of waste at the household level.

Habitat through others' eyes

The first issue of *The Urban Age*, dated September 1992, is dedicated to urban environment. It includes articles on cities and UNCED, with examples from Tianjin, China, and the Sustainable Cities Programme in the United Republic of Tanzania (see article in the previous issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS), plus a conversation with Curitiba Mayor, a Habitat Scroll of Honour winner, Jaime Lerner.

Each issue will focus on one substantive topic (the next being urban entrepreneurs), and regular departments will explore community-based activities, innovative strategies among city managers, and controversial issues. A guest editorial (the

first comes from Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and the Environment in New Delhi, India), question-and-answer interviews, literature reviews and a calendar of urban events are cited as regular features.

Development funds have been provided by the UNDP/UNCHS (Habitat)/World Bank Urban Management Programme, and the World Bank.

The August 1992 issue of *Urban Perspectives* focuses on transport -- with articles on and comparisons of various transport modes: *matatus*, bicycles, buses. While bicycles are by far the most energy-efficient means of transport, there are, at least in Africa, problems which prevent their more widespread use. These include initial cost, maintenance, safety and infrastructure -- not to mention public image.

The USAID Regional Housing and Urban Development Office acknowledges the knowledgeable assistance of Shivona Tavares, UNCHS (Habitat) documentalist, in tracing material for the issue.

E and D File 1992: Briefings for NGOs on UNCED (July 1992) speaks of local-authority initiatives in support of Agenda 21 -- including partnerships among "groups such as UNDP, the UN Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNEP, the World Bank, regional banks, the International Union of Local Authorities, the World Association of the Major Metropolises, Summit of Great Cities of the World, the United Towns Organization and other relevant partners".

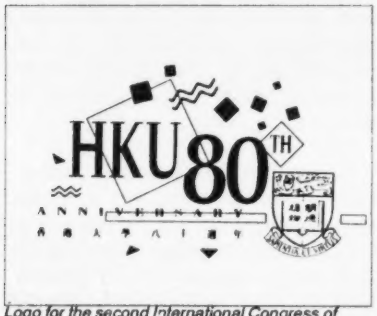
The lead article in the *HIC Women and Shelter Network* of September 1992 is on "Our liaison with UNCHS (Habitat)", followed by an overview of the UNCHS (Habitat) programme on women in human settlement development. *ShelterNet*, the newsletter of Shelter-Afrique in its August 1992 issue updates readers on the Municipal Development Programme, citing UNCHS participation, while *Shelter*, the HUDCO newsletter in its special issue on Social Rental Housing, issued for World HABITAT Day 1992, offers a review of the UNCHS (Habitat) *Rental Housing: Proceedings of an Expert Group Meeting.*

The January 11 1993 issue of *Time* magazine has a cover story on megacities, raising the question: "Does the growth of megacities portend an apocalypse of global epidemics and pollution? Or will the remarkable stirrings of self-reliance that can be found in some of them point the way to salvation?"

Examples of both are cited. Curitiba, Brazil, whose mayor received a Habitat Scroll of Honour last year, is taken as a vision of a self-reliant future. Also cited are other efforts reported on in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, among them the Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi, Pakistan, and the Kampung Improvement Programme in Jakarta, Indonesia. The article concludes that "Ultimately, the responsibility for making cities livable rests with their governments and their people... [T]he megacities will have to...invent a sustainable future for themselves. Since the fate of the world is entwined with the fate of its cities, humanity has no other choice."

Habitat International Coalition - HIC
The NGO Alliance on Human Settlements
Women and Shelter Network
SECRETARIAT
Mazingira Institute
PO Box 14564 Nairobi Kenya Tel 254 2 47066 Fax 254 2 740524
Secretary : Diana Lee-Smith Coordinator : Rasna Warah

EVENTS



Logo for the second International Congress of Asian Planning Schools to be held in Hong Kong

Planning for a Better Living Environment in Asia

The theme of the second International Congress of Asian Planning Schools, to take place from 25 to 27 August 1993 in Hong Kong, will be "Planning for a Better Living Environment in Asia". As the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management of the University of Hong Kong in its letter of invitation points out, economic development in the region may offer opportunities in improving the living environment, but at the same time it may create new problems. The Congress will explore urban and regional planning issues, particularly the role of planning schools in solving those issues, related to the five sub-themes:

- housing,
- land use,
- transport,
- environment, and
- infrastructure.

The Congress is organized to exchange research findings and experiences in understanding and solving urban and regional planning and management problems in Asia, and to discuss issues related to planning education. It is part of the 80th Anniversary Celebration Programme of the University of Hong Kong.

Further information and registration form from: Congress Secretariat, Second International Congress of Asian Planning Schools, Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management, U. of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong. Phone 852 859 2721; Fax 852 559 0468; Email cupem@hkucc.hku.hk; Telex 71919 CEREB HX.

Water, sanitation, environment and development

"Water, sanitation, environment and development" is the theme of the 19th WEDC Conference, scheduled to be held at Accra, Ghana, from 6 to 10 September 1993. It is the latest in a series organized in developing countries under the auspices of the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC) of Loughborough University of Technology.

Designed for those planning, providing, operating, maintaining or managing water, sanitation, the environment or development, there is wide scope for participation. Papers will be based on personal experience or deal with innovations. Some of the subjects to be covered are:

- *Water and sanitation*: projects with communities, allowing for varied cultures and traditions, recovering costs, support for and by non-governmental organizations (NGOs), involvement of private enterprise, innovative techniques -- whether successful or not;
- *The environment*: clean water, clean air, protecting forests, reversing desertification, improving the urban environment -- low-cost housing, planning for people;
- *Development*: poverty alleviation, income generation, small-scale irrigation, rural roads, communal buildings.

Further information from: Professor John Pickford, WEDC, Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, England, UK.

Streets and Spaces for People

The Seventh International Malls Conference, to be held at Melbourne, Australia, from 21 to 24 September 1993, will have as its theme, "Streets and Spaces for People", reflecting the belief that a sustainable city or town centre is one where people have pride of place and are given the opportunity to explore an environment that is stimulating, secure and easy to negotiate. The Conference coincides with the last week of the 1993 Melbourne International Arts Festival.

The Conference will focus on the importance and potential of public spaces -- including streets -- as attractions and venues for a full range of activities and experiences. The aim is to give delegates ideas on the development of planning, marketing and management strategies.

The programme takes an integrated view of public spaces, so that issues of management, maintenance, monitoring and marketing have equal prominence with planning and design. Sessions on the Conference theme will be interspersed with forums featuring short presentations and visits to key locations in Melbourne's centre, its cosmopolitan inner suburbs and nearby regional cities.

Further information from: The Meeting Planners, 108 Church St., Hawthorn,

Victoria 3122 Australia. Phone 03 819 3700; Fax 03 819 5978.

Natural Disasters: Protecting Vulnerable Communities

The United Nations proclaimed the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The goals of the Decade are:

- To reduce through concerted international action -- especially in developing countries -- the loss of life, property damage and social and economic disruption caused by natural disasters;
- To improve the capacity of each country to mitigate the effects of natural disaster expeditiously and effectively;
- To devise guidelines and strategies for the application of existing scientific and technical knowledge, taking into account the cultural and economic diversity among nations;
- To foster scientific and engineering endeavours aimed at closing critical gaps in knowledge;
- To disseminate existing and new technical information related to measures for the assessment, prediction and mitigation of natural disasters.

It is now widely recognized that with one quarter of the Decade already elapsed, the time for talking is over and the time for action has arrived. The IDNDR Science and Technology Committee of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has been active in promoting the Decade, and is now planning a three-day Conference to start on 13 October 1993: IDNDR day.

The Conference, **"Natural Disasters: protecting vulnerable communities"**, will be held at London, at the headquarters of the Royal Society which -- along with the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Society of Earthquake and Civil Engineering Dynamics and British Nuclear Fuels plc -- is supporting the Conference.

Further information from: Rachel Coninx, IDNDR, The Conference Office, Institution of Civil Engineers, 1 Great George Street, London SW1P 3AA, UK.

International Conference on Healthy Cities, San Francisco

The San Francisco Bay area will be the venue of the 6 to 10 December 1993 International Conference on Healthy Cities. It will provide a forum for the exchange of practitioners' experiences and ideas, and examine the effects of health-care governance on the systematic relationships of people within their communities. Practitioners from both the northern and southern hemispheres will demonstrate the collaborative process of building a balanced health-care system in the city, and present the integration of fields such as public health, education, the environment and so on in urban communities.

The Conference will include a series of media presentations, specially designed lectures, civic exhibitions, workshops and site tours in the area to local healthy cities. Some 1000 to 1500 participants from around the world are expected.

The healthy cities model, evolved over the past seven years, is being used successfully in hundreds of cities around the globe. It focuses on the process of community improvement by fostering collaboration between city residents and the public and private-sector service providers -- seeking local solutions to urban health problems.

The United States of America's Public Health Service, Western Consortium for Public Health, California Department of Health Services and the National Civic League are joining over 50 other organizations for this event.

Further information from: Professor Len Duhl or Victoria Quinn-Stephens, Western Consortium for Public Health, 2001 Addison St., Suite 200, Berkeley, California 94704 1103, U.S.A.

COURSES

Birmingham School of Architecture

The Birmingham School of Architecture of the University of Central England in Birmingham offers courses for overseas students in the field of housing at certificate, diploma and Masters levels. Higher degrees by research in a variety of subjects are also available in such subjects as housing, development planning, appropriate technology and energy efficiency.

POST-EXPERIENCE TRAINING IN DESIGN AND LOW-COST TECHNOLOGY: Housing, planning and building, for example, is a 44-week training course for candidates from developing countries working as supervisors in low-income housing schemes, plant managers for the supply of low-cost building materials, organizers of upgrading projects, and architectural draughtspersons engaged in the design and detailing of local settlement projects. Part I leads to a certificate and parts I and II to a diploma.

Areas covered include materials technology, manufacture and use; construction theory; design and draughting; surveying; planning; cost analysis; and service provision. Practical workshops are held at the Intermediate Technology Workshops, Intermediate Technology Development Group, and Timber Research and Development Association. These

complement the lectures and studio workshops. A special study of the student's own choice, linked to the unit on humankind and the environment in Part I, uses materials and experience from the student's home country.

The MSc IN HOUSING AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES is designed to provide participants with the working knowledge and skills required at managerial level in different stages of housing development -- from policy-making to planning and the management of the implementation process. Thus they should develop the capacity to produce coherent and effective policies based on available resources at both national and regional levels to meet housing needs.

The Course has been designed for candidates from a wide variety of disciplines, such as architecture, quantity surveying, planning, building, construction, economics, and civil engineering. They should have a good first degree in a relevant discipline and working experience. They may then be accepted for the Course, which consists of 12 units, including:

- skill-based studies (1.5 units),
- knowledge-based studies (3 units),
- vocational studies (5 units), and
- research studies (2.5 units).

Further information from: The Secretary (Overseas Courses), Birmingham School of Architecture, Faculty of the Built Environment, University of Central England in Birmingham, Perry Barr, Birmingham B42 2SU, England, UK.

DPU

The Development Planning Unit of University College London offers a number of courses leading to various degrees and certificates. The following are a sample of 1993 offerings.

THE MASTER'S DEGREE IN HOUSING IN DEVELOPMENT is awarded upon successful completion of a course which will be held from 4 October 1993 to 30 September 1994. Course work is based on readings, essay writing and critical discussions, stimulated by lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials. The Course is divided into three subject themes organized in the form of seminars: housing in development processes, housing theory, and analysis of housing provision and management. Assessment consists of an examination held in the third term, comprising three unseen written papers plus coursework and a written dissertation.

A POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA COURSE ON URBAN MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING PRACTICE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES begins on the same date and continues to 24 June 1994. The UNDP/UNCHS (Habitat)/World Bank Urban Management Programme underpins the teaching of this course, which consists of three parts: urban development planning practice, managing metropolitan and municipal development, and specialist studies. A CERTIFICATE COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT: POLICIES, PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONS will take place from 27 September to 17 December 1993. Five specific themes (environment and development, pollution abatement, the water cycle, energy resource management, and environmental institutions) are covered in separate two-week modules with a two-week introductory session. The first week of each covers the main issues and latest approaches, while field work and exercises in the second week provide relevant practical experience. Each module can be taken as a separate course, For example, a SHORT COURSE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT will be offered from 7 to 22 October 1993. Course content includes development problems, approaches to development planning, environmental considerations in development, and development institutions and the environment.

Further information and application forms from: Lucie Dubinik (Certificate and Short Course Administrator)/Helen Parboo (MSc and Diploma Course Administrator), University College London, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London WC1H OED, UK. Phone +4471 388 7581; Fax +4471 387 4541; Telex 896599.

IHE

The International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE) at Delft , the Netherlands, offers a number of human settlements related courses on a regular basis. The following 45-week diploma courses begin in September/ October 1993; an additional six months for an M.Sc. is possible. The deadline for application is 1 July 1993. A degree in civil, sanitary, mechanical or chemical engineering plus three years of professional experience is required.

The INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN SANITARY ENGINEERING offers training in water supply and sanitation in rural and urban areas, design of water and wastewater treatment plants and of water distribution and wastewater collection systems. That on ADVANCED ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION aims to provide engineers, scientists and administrators with up-to-date environmental science and technology, focusing on micro pollutants.

The INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT will provide decision-makers and officials working in the area of coastal management with a broad overview and a better understanding of the latest developments. It will last four weeks, beginning in September 1993. In this case the application deadline is 15 July, and the requirements are a relevant degree or working experience, involvement in policy preparation and decision-making, and three years' professional experience.

Eight-week courses on LOW-COST WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION and on WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT FOR DECISION-MAKERS offer diplomas. Again, candidates must have a relevant degree plus three years' professional experience. The courses begin in June 1993, and the application deadline is 15 May. An INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON URBAN DRAINAGE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES is scheduled to begin in November 1993, with 1 October as the application deadline. The INTERNATIONAL COURSE IN ANAEROBIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT will last six weeks, beginning in June 1993; the deadline for application is 15 May.

Further information from: IHE, Oude Delft 95, P.O. Box 3015, 2601 DA Delft, The Netherlands.

ITC

The International Institute for Aerospace Survey and Earth Sciences (ITC) of the Netherlands offers postgraduate studies in geo-information systems for cadastral urban and rural applications leading to diplomas and to a Master of Science. In the area of URBAN SURVEY AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS ANALYSIS, the post-graduate diploma

course begins in September and lasts ten months, while the 14-month MSc degree course commences in November. The GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR URBAN APPLICATIONS offers a post-graduate diploma after an 11-month course which begins in October, while the MSc degree coursework begins in September and lasts 13 months. MSc programmes are research-oriented and the candidate must submit a thesis based on research work done during the study. The MSc degree is awarded on acceptance by the Examination Board of the thesis; participants who fail to meet the thesis requirements may be awarded an Advanced Post-graduate Diploma.

Further information from: ITC Student Registration Office, P.O. Box 6, 7500 AA Enschede, The Netherlands. Phone +31 0 53 874 444; Fax +31 053 874 400; Telex 44525 itc nl; Cables Aersur Enschede, The Netherlands.

IRC

The International Water and Sanitation Centre, The Hague, the Netherlands organizes briefing programmes (standard, tailor-made or intensive) plus short training courses (including management for sustainability in water supply and sanitation programmes, community management in urban water supply and environmental sanitation schemes, management and implementation of hygiene education in water supply and sanitation projects, and issues in information management -- a practical approach.

STANDARD BRIEFING PROGRAMMES are scheduled for 14-18 June 1993, 16-20 August, 4-8 October and 8-12 November (at which time participants can also register for the eight-day IRC/VENA Centre for Women and Autonomy Standard Briefing Programme on Water Supply and Sanitation and Gender Issues). Subject to a sufficient number of applicants the following short TRAINING COURSES are scheduled for later this year: MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROGRAMMES, 19 July to 6 August, Cameroon, English-medium, 30 August to 17 September, The Netherlands, English-medium, and December (tentative), Burkina Faso, French-medium; COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT IN URBAN WATER SUPPLY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION SCHEMES, 4-22 May, the Netherlands, and MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HYGIENE EDUCATION IN WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECTS, 4-22 October, the Netherlands.

Further information from: IRC's Training Section, P.O. Box 93190, 2509 AD The Hague, The Netherlands. Phone 3170 33 141 33; Fax. 3170 38 140 34.

King Alfred's College/U. of Southampton

King Alfred's College offers a POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA/MA IN TELEVISION FOR DEVELOPMENT validated by the University of Southampton. This Course gives an opportunity for students from the North and South to meet to use television and video as tools in the process of the development of under-represented and marginalized peoples.

The one-year course links development and television theory in practical production projects which may be undertaken overseas. It is geared to the needs of development agencies working in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and overseas, and is taught by specialists from the fields of development and television studies.

Further information from: The Admissions Officer, King Alfred's College, Sparkford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO22 4NR, UK. Fax 0962 842280.

KIT (Royal Tropical Institute)

As part of its Women and Development Training Programme, the Royal Tropical Institute of the Netherlands has a BASIC TRAINING COURSE ON WOMEN, GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT. The objectives are to

- Increase awareness of gender considerations and women's needs in development,
- Improve gender analytical skills,
- Share and strengthen the ability to develop effective gender, women and development strategies and approaches.

Each two-week course is adapted as much as possible to suit participants' needs. The next course begins in November 1993. Applications of those with at least a year's professional experience in the field of women and development must be in by September.

Further information from: KIT, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Oxford Brookes University

The former Oxford Polytechnic has now become the School of Planning at Oxford Brookes University. Three graduate programmes are offered to planners, urban managers, land management and development specialists and environmental policy-makers with a first degree and/or appropriate professional experience in the developing world.

The MSc URBAN PLANNING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES is a one-year full-time programme focussing on economic/social development and urbanization; planning and managing urban growth -- policy development, land policies, land delivery and shelter provision; plus policy and project implementation.

Also a one-year full-time course is the MSc DIPLOMA IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT, which adopts an integrative approach to the complementary roles of ecology and planning. The MSc/DIPLOMA IN URBAN PLANNING/URBAN PLANNING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, a two-year, full-time course, is fully professionally recognized by the Royal Town Planning Institute.

Further information from: Graduate Admissions Secretary, Oxford Brookes University, School of Planning, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP, UK.

University of London

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of the University of

London is offering a SHORT COURSE ON URBAN HEALTH IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, to be held from 6 to 24 September 1993. The Course is intended to provide participants with knowledge and methods which will enable them to plan, manage and evaluate urban primary-health-care programmes in developing countries.

Some 20 participants are expected from ministries of health, NGOs, planning agencies, research institutes, schools of public health, international development agencies, local authorities or urban development authorities. While fluency in English is essential, they need have no previous technical knowledge of urban health.

By the end of the Course, they should be able to:

- Use knowledge of environmental, political, economic and social determinants of urban health as a basis for a broad approach to planning;
- Assess the health needs of urban populations;
- Monitor and evaluate urban health activities;
- Understand the dynamics of people's involvement in all aspects of their health development;
- Assimilate alternative approaches in resolving urban health problems and assess the potential for application in the participant's own context.

Further information from: The Short Course Office, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London WC1E 7HT, UK. Tel (071) 927 2074. Fax (071) 323 0638. Telex 8953474 LSHTML G. Cables HYGOWER London WC1.

University of Queensland

The Department of Geographical Sciences and Planning through its Regional and Town Planning Stream recently introduced a THIRD WORLD PLANNING PROGRAMME, with the aim of offering advanced training in sophisticated techniques and methods in the planning and management of human settlements and the environment in developing countries.

The MASTER OF PLANNING STUDIES (M.P.St.) is a two-year degree programme offering both course-work study and research activities. The first year of the course corresponds to the postgraduate diploma course described below. Students are also required to, *inter alia*, produce advanced research reports on several topics directly related to current planning issues from their countries. The course is held twice a year, beginning in February or July. Applications for admission, which may be received by writing to the address below, must be sent back to arrive at least three months before the first semester of intended study.

The POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN PLANNING (THIRD WORLD) is a one-year (two-semester) course, offering a wide range of subjects including:

- Urban planning,
- Resource management,
- Rural and regional planning,
- Tourism planning,
- Environmental planning,
- Geographical information system, etc. The emphasis is on practical project work in urban, rural and regional settings.

Further information from: The Registrar, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Q. 4072, Australia.

University of Wisconsin

The Ph.D. IN DEVELOPMENT programme offered by the University of Wisconsin-Madison trains social scientists for careers in development in third world countries, bilateral or multilateral development assistance agencies, foundations and voluntary organizations working internationally. It provides an academic focus for students who wish to study international development issues as they apply to less developed countries within an interdisciplinary framework, which provides considerable flexibility in planning a course of individual study and research.

Those seeking admission should already hold a Master's degree. The standard number of credits for the Ph.D. programme is approximately 65, usually within the following guidelines:

- interdisciplinary seminars (6 credits),
- courses from the major discipline (15 to 25 credits, at least half of which should be in advanced courses and not included as interdisciplinary seminars),
- electives from secondary disciplines (20 to 30 credits),
- research design, methodology and statistics (10 to 15 credits),
- thesis research (6 to 8 credits).

Language requirements will vary. After completing the course work and passing the preliminary examination, the student becomes a degree candidate, and must write and defend a thesis.

General admissions requirements for the University of Wisconsin-Madison are stated in the Graduate School Admissions Packet, which may be obtained from the following address: Chair, Ph.D. in Development Program, Land Tenure Center, 1300 University Avenue, Madison, WI 53706, U.S.A.

PUBLICATIONS

■ **Colin and Mog Ball, Water Supplies for Rural Communities**, Intermediate Technology Publications (103/105 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HH, UK), 1991, vii plus 56 pp., photos and references, ISBN 85339-112-3

This book draws on the experiences of those working abroad for Voluntary Service Overseas, which retains the copyright. From these widespread projects two central elements are linked to success in rural water programmes, though the authors point out they may not be easily achieved -- or even possible in certain circumstances. Nevertheless, the involvement of local people in the design, construction and continuing care of their water supply is regarded as vital, as is the use of appropriate technology, so that local people or maintenance teams can maintain and repair the system without relying on complicated and expensive imported parts.

Four case studies - from Ghana, India, Malawi and Nepal -- are used to show how diverse settings incorporate common features and lead to the same conclusions.

■ **P. Doat et al., Building with Earth**, The Mud Village Society, (24, Chitra Vihar (FF), New Delhi 110092), vii plus 284 pp., hundreds of figures and photographs,

As the Foreword by the Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO notes, this book, written by five professionals from CRATerre, the International Centre for Earth Construction in France, provides an in-depth study on building with earth as it zooms over different continents and time frames up to the present day. The Publisher's Note describes how the Mud Village Society decided to bring out the publication itself, taking on tasks of production and distribution so that the volume might be made available to reader/users in the developing countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) at accessible rates -- with a discount for students of architecture and engineering.

The authors, five former students at the School of Architecture in Grenoble, France, have since -- as architects, researchers and teachers-- amassed a wealth of information through work in France, Africa and Latin America. In this volume they share their experience, including technical details and practical tips. Examples from Germany through Peru to Yemen are combined in an attempt to stimulate creative ideas and original solutions. The bulk of the book is a translation from the original French edition, *Construire en Terre*, with an update on news from CRATerre added. It is rounded off with a short glossary, list of organizations and bibliography.

■ **Nigel Harris (ed.), Cities in the 1990s: The Challenge for Developing Countries**, UCL Press Ltd. for the Overseas Development Administration and the Development Planning Unit, University College London, 1992, xxiii plus 232 pp., glossary, notes, index, ISBN 1-85728-02906 hardback, 1-85728-030-X paperback

This volume offers highlights from a workshop of representatives of international aid agencies and governments in developing countries who met in November 1991 to consider the urban policy statements of the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and UNCHS (Habitat). The Minister for Overseas Development of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland opens the book with a foreword in which she states her hope that the publication "will assist in the design and implementation of policies and programmes to tackle what will become one of the most critical development issues in the years ahead".

As Nigel Harris points out in the introduction, the three main United Nations bodies involved indicated a change in their ways of working towards a process approach, seizing opportunities as they arise, stressing continuity and the need for a multi-sectoral, holistic approach. "This message was conveyed to the other donor representatives at the workshop, in the expectation that they would follow suit." The primacy of national plans and priorities, however, means that the United Nations will have to adopt an advocacy role with governments, if change is to occur on the ground. The very publication of the papers presented here will give them wider currency, and may indeed lead to a radical change in the approaches adopted to address rapid urbanization.

Support for the new approach was forthcoming at the workshop itself. Shabbir Cheema of UNDP in his summing up of the discussion on the new agendas stated, "In all settings there are people who will support innovative initiatives, whether it is in international organizations, national governments, Ministries or Departments."

■ **Drummond Hislop, Energy Options: An introduction to small-scale energy technologies**, Intermediate Technology Publications 1992, viii plus 109 pp., photos, figures, tables, glossary, references and bibliographies, ISBN 1-85339-082-8

This publication, which grew out of a series of leaflets by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) in the 1970s, is devoted to the options available in non-fossil energy resources. As the preface states, its purpose "is to explain what can and cannot be done, what realistically can be expected, and, not least, to point out the potential problems, both practical and economic, which might have to be faced in using the various techniques and technologies".

The chapters themselves cover power from solar energy, heat from the same source, power from the wind, water from the wind, and biomass. Organizations and their addresses, equipment suppliers and manufacturers and their addresses (as of July 1991) round out the book. Two basic principles are given. First, in conditions where energy and capital are in short supply, only reliable technologies and those that maximize the energy outputs needed by the community as a whole for the capital available should be adopted. Secondly, "relatively marginal adjustments to biomass systems will tend to provide much larger benefits overall to the community than can the introduction of small amounts of energy from completely new or unfamiliar technologies."

The decision-maker is urged to remember that renewable energy

technologies are not always the most appropriate solution, that benefit maximization or optimum capital use should be a guiding principle, and that the technology chosen should not only be reliable, but flexible enough to cope with changing needs over time.

■ **Bo Johansson and Johnny Åstrand, Eleven Successful Housing Projects: An inventory of implemented housing improvements in the Third World, Swedish Association for Development of Low-cost Housing (SADEL, LCHS, Box 118, 221 00 Lund), 1990, 100 pp., photos, tables, charts, diagrams, maps and sketches, ISBN 91-86596-11-X**

This publication came about on the initiative of the Swedish Mission Council/Office for International Development Cooperation which chose 11 examples of housing projects in developing countries which had been deemed successful by both the inhabitants themselves and outsiders. They range across different countries, cultures and economic systems -- from population resettlement in Recife, Brazil, through self-help housing which became government policy in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, to improved housing through transfer of knowledge in Tarime District, United Republic of Tanzania.

The projects themselves are described in terms of basic facts about each, and the country in which it takes place, as well as a chronological description of its development and the address of each information source. Crucial prerequisites for success are offered in the conclusions section; these are democracy, organization, participation, land, and materials and knowledge. Recommendations are then drawn up, as follows:

- Make thorough feasibility studies;
- Find out what the inhabitants want;
- Give clear information;
- Optimize people's participation;
- Develop and disseminate knowledge;
- Guarantee security of tenure;
- See that there is continuity.

A compilation of some 40 projects -- basic facts and distinguishing features -- follows in the "List of projects".

■ **Kosta Mathéy, ed., Beyond Self-help Housing, Mansell (UK) and Profil Verlag GmbH (Germany), xiv plus 417 pp., footnotes, figures, tables, references, acknowledgments, ISBN 0-7201-2047-0**

As John F.C. Turner notes in the Foreword, "The inestimable value of this book lies in its raising of issues that do indeed go beyond self-help housing and must now be discussed in order to strengthen and accelerate the promising movements of the kinds reported here, which contribute to building a sustainable civilization." He argues for community-based systems enabled by government and supported by industry and commerce -- with the people setting their needs, priorities and possibilities, investing both material and resources -- with technical and managerial assistance as required.

In his introduction, the editor sets forth the plan of the book. The first part takes up theoretical issues, placing the theme of self-help housing in a socio-political context, while the second contains findings from empirical research intended to test central propositions in the theory debate, and which advance a revision/amplification of the theoretical model. More practice-oriented articles are introduced in the next section, while concrete case studies are portrayed in the fourth part. The final section contains a review and appraisal of influential publications in self-help housing policies for the developing world.

The first chapter of part 1, by Peter Marcuse, for example, proposes five features to be included in self-help housing in order to overcome the weaknesses he describes. These are collective self-help; limited equity ownership, with rigid resale and rental controls; a collective democratic decision-making structure open to others seeking housing; a non-exclusive, 'expansionist' structure; and strong association with a movement or group focused on influencing governmental actions. As the editor points out, many of these features are incorporated in the case studies of part iv. In her article Carolyn Moser refers to the recommendations for women's participation in human settlements projects, but warns that merely formal inclusion of women in such without redistributing their workload may even increase the burden on women.

Mathéy in his article on self-help housing policies in Cuba shows that assisted self-help housing is a realistic solution in that context, producing better results than spontaneous self-building and assisted self-help programmes elsewhere in Latin America. He concludes that "particularly in a period when the socialist project is being questioned, and abandoned in Eastern Europe, it seems a noteworthy discovery that in Cuba the socialist context seems to have opened new possibilities in the realm of self-help housing, which were never conceivable and are not attainable in capitalist social formations."

Eike Jakob Schutz, making a case for housing prefabrication in squatter settlements, stresses that economic and socio-political aspects are as important as technical considerations, if housing programmes are to be seen as an integral part of a comprehensive community development programme. Yves Cabannes also speaks of the potential of prefabrication in an article based on a research project conducted from 1987 to 1990 by GRET (Groupe de Recherche et d'Echarges Technologiques) GRET-associated research and training institutions from China, Colombia, France, India, Mexico, the Netherlands, and Nicaragua. There is of course no ideal solution, even in technical terms, but he states that the use of local materials, collective efforts, use of skilled labour where needed, and cost considerations must be viewed on a case-by-case basis.

In the fourth section Julio Calderón Cockburn looks at lessons learned from the 20 years of experience in Villa El Salvador, a model for other neighbourhoods which shows the need for municipal or central government support; the integration of production, distribution and consumption activities; and a collective perspective for self-management. Jan van der Linden looks at the Khuda ki Basti experiment in Hyderabad as a successful modification of sites-and-services to serve the poor. [The reader is also referred to the UNCHS (Habitat) publication on the same topic, reviewed in the previous issue of this newsletter.]

■ **Dennis A. Rondinelli, Decentralizing Urban Development Programs: A framework for**

analyzing policy, Office of Housing and Urban Programs of USAID, May 1990, vii plus 87 pp., appendixes, tables and references,

This book outlines a process for assessing the feasibility of decentralizing urban services, facilities and infrastructure. The first part discusses basic concepts crucial for understanding why decentralization may be necessary, describes the scope and severity of problems with central governmental financing and management of urban development programmes, and outlines potential benefits and limitations of decentralizing urban services in developing countries. The second part outlines a framework for analysing the political, economic and social dimensions of decentralization policies in such countries. It describes the characteristics of urban services and infrastructure, identifies alternative financial and organizational arrangements, and explores approaches to formulating intervention strategies and designing programmes and projects.

Each chapter opens with an overview and closes with conclusions. In the main body of text, there is a wealth of examples backed by scholarly references. Tables summarize, e.g., the framework for assessing feasibility of decentralization, or the advantages and disadvantages of decentralization.

A copy may be obtained by requesting document No. PN-ABD-906 from USAID Document and Information Handling Facility (DIHF), PPC/CDIE, Room 209, State Annex 18, Washington, D.C. 20523 1802, U.S.A.

■ **Carolyn Stephens and Trudy Harpham, Slum Improvement: Health Improvement? -- A review of issues in health planning for the urban poor in developing countries with an annotated bibliography, Urban Health Programme, Health Policy Unit, Department of Public Health and Policy (PHP), viii plus 84 pp., figure, tables, references, selected annotated references, annotations and author index, ISSN 0962-6115**

This PHP Departmental Publication No. 1 of 1991 is the first in a new series of publications produced by the Department of Public Health and Policy in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

It offers a brief review of emerging thinking in the field of urban planning, with particular reference to health planning for the urban poor. It covers the major issues in slum improvement: reaching the poorest, relocation, land tenure, gentrification, debt burdens, impact on women, and evaluation of the health impact of slum improvement projects. The two case studies which follow, a Hyderabad slum improvement project in India and a community-based environmental health project in West Point, Monrovia, Liberia, were deliberately chosen as health initiatives which did not choose health services as their immediate vehicle.

Lessons learned include the need to "juggle carefully with the various elements of urban planning", the importance of balance, sustainability and the most appropriate use of funds, all in pursuit of improved community health. The conclusions section looks at the constraints and opportunities/potential solutions in introducing health components into slum improvement projects. One obvious solution is improved communication; examples are given of a slum project in Amman, Jordan, and another in Visakhapatnam, south India.

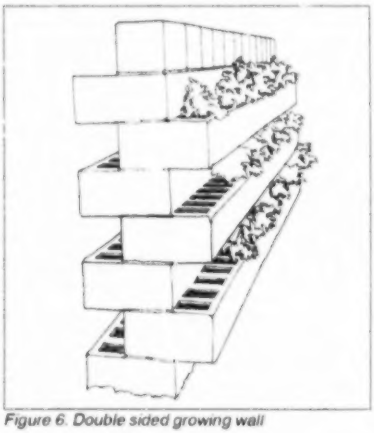


Figure 6. Double sided growing wall

■ **Uno Winblad, The Productive Homestead: Report of a Study Tour, (WINBLAD KONSULT AB, Pataholm 5503, 384 92 ÅLEM, Sweden), February 1992, 21 pp., figures, notes**

This report by a SIDA consultant looks at the achievements of Dr. Gösta (Gus) Nilsson, who has lived in Botswana for over 20 years, testing his ideas about the productive homestead (a micro-enterprise providing not only food but also a cash income) in his family enterprise. Some of his ideas are judged applicable in densely populated rural areas, especially in wasteland development. There is need for further research on their application to crowded urban and peri-urban areas. Of particular interest are the growing walls, which are provided with a drip irrigation system on one or both sides, and growing benches, which can be used for all kinds of vegetables, cereals, fruit trees and ornamentals.

■ **World Bank, World Development Report 1992: Development and the Environment, published for the World Bank by Oxford University Press, 1992, xii plus 308 pp., acronyms and initials, definitions and data notes, overview, bibliographical note, environmental data appendix, world development indicators, boxes, figures, and tables, ISBN 0-19-520877-3 cloth-bound, ISBN 0-19-520876-5 paperback, ISSN 0163-5085**

As the Overview states, the "achievement of sustained and equitable development remains the greatest challenge facing the human race." The Report itself describes how environmental problems can and do undermine the goals of development, and explores the impact of economic growth on the environment, identifying conditions under which policies for efficient income growth can complement those for environmental protection. The most important possibility is poverty reduction, not only a moral imperative, but essential for environmental stewardship.

Emphasis is on developing countries, which face the daily problems of unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, soil depletion, indoor smoke from cooking fires and outdoor smoke from coal burning. Specific actions by industrial countries on behalf of developing countries are set forth, such as greater support for programmes to reduce poverty and population growth, a good example of getting to root causes rather than symptoms and of looking at the long-term prospect. Policies for development and the environment are laid out, as are suggestions for removing impediments to action (e.g., counteracting political pressures, improving information, enhancing institutional arrangements and involving local people). "Putting policies to work" shows how those principles can be applied in practice, looking at four themes:

Water and sanitation,

- Emissions from energy and industry,
- Rural environmental challenges,
- Environmental challenges that cross national borders.

The chapter on sanitation and clean water argues that large gains in environmental quality, health, equity and direct economic returns can be realized by adopting an approach comprising four key elements:

- "Managing water resources better, taking account of economic efficiency and environmental sustainability;
- Providing, at full cost, those 'private' services that people want and are willing to pay for (including water supply and the collection of human excreta, wastewater and solid wastes);
- Using scarce public funds only for those services (specifically, treatment and disposal of human excreta, wastewater and solid wastes) that provide wider communal benefits;
- Developing flexible and responsive institutional mechanisms for providing these services, with a larger role for community organizations and the private sector."

Boxes and figures give illustrative examples, from the rising life expectancy with improvements in water supply and sanitation in Lyon, Paris and Marseilles, from 1820 to 1900, through conserving water as an alternative to expanding supply in Beijing, to innovative sewerage in a Karachi squatter settlement (the Orangi Pilot Project). The final figure in that chapter depicts three scenarios with regard to safe water and sanitation provision, 1990-2030: "business-as-usual", accelerated investment in water supply and sanitation, and accelerated investment and efficiency reforms.

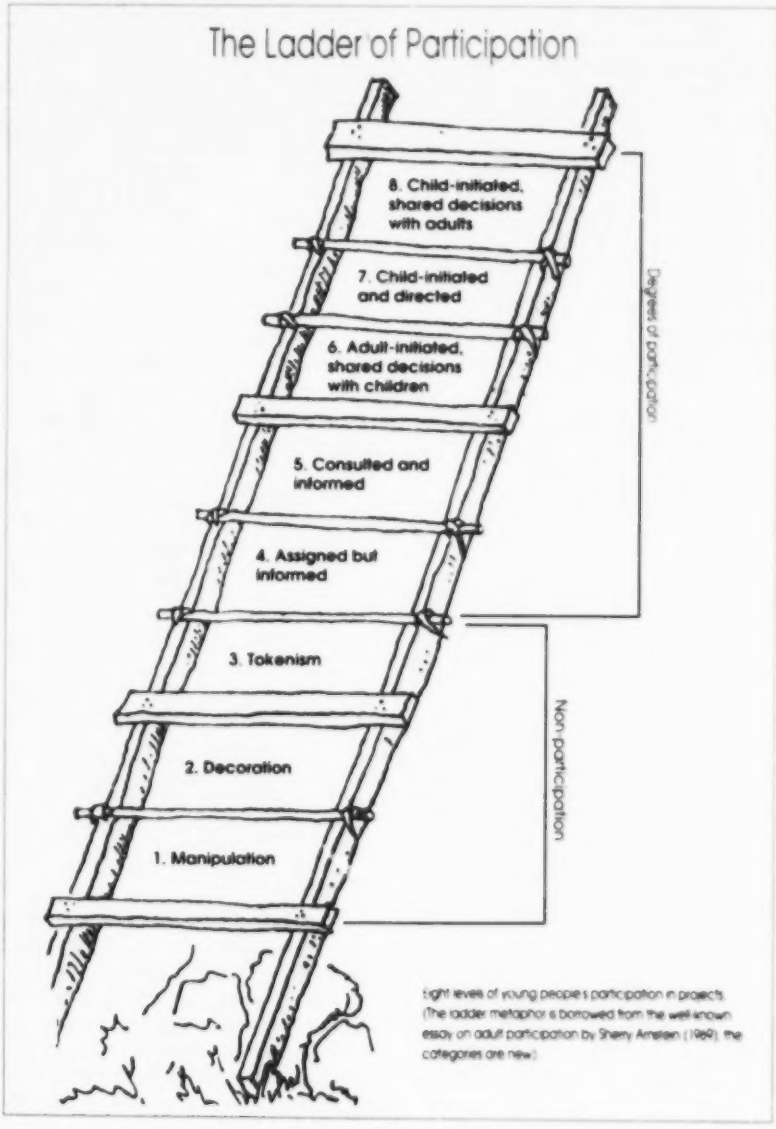
Journals

■ **Environment and Urbanization**, vol. 4, No. 2 (October 1992)

This issue focuses on sustainable cities: meeting needs, reducing resource use, recycling, reuse and reclamation. The introduction points out that the achievement of sustainable development requires the simultaneous achievement of social, economic and ecological goals: minimizing the use of non-renewable resources, sustainable use of renewable resources, keeping within the absorptive capacity of local and global sinks for wastes, offering people access to adequate shelter and a healthy environment, access to adequate livelihood, with choice and participation in national and local politics while respecting human rights.

Most of the articles in the issue concentrate on how to improve the quality of the living environment for poorer groups in third-world cities, while others are also concerned with promoting efficient resource use and minimum waste generation. Papers address such issues as resolving the conflict between sustainability and development, linking global and local sustainability, action at the city/municipal level, and global action for sustainable cities. Four papers offer feedback to themes of earlier issues of the journal.

■ **Roger A. Hart, Children's Participation: From tokenism to citizenship**, UNICEF International Child Development Centre, (Piazza S.S. Annunziata, 12, 50122 Florence, Italy), March 1992, 44 pp., photos, tables, references and further reading.



Eight levels of young people's participation in projects. (The ladder metaphor is borrowed from the well-known essay on adult participation by Sherry Arnstein (1969); the categories are new.)

ISSN 1014-7829, ISBN 88-85401-05-8

In this, the fourth of the Innocenti Essays, the author offers negative and positive examples of children organizing themselves. Among the latter is the Sarvodaya Movement in Sri Lanka, where in many villages children are the key to the development of community participation.

Participation varies from manipulation of children by others to child-initiated activities, with shared decision-making involving adults. Moving up the ladder we find "assigned but informed" children used as pages at the World Summit for Children. For convenience, they were the children of diplomats. At the opposite end of the socio-economic scale, we find Butterflies, an NGO devoted to the lives of street and working children, which has set up a restaurant in New Delhi, India. It serves as a training centre, source of income, and home for a small number of homeless children and teenagers -- who serve other street children on a regular basis at a 40 per cent discount. This book points out the benefits of full participation and gives examples of where to begin.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

If you wish us to consider listing your events here, please submit information to us by 15 February for the April issue, 15 June for the August issue, and 15 October for the December issue.

1993

APRIL

UNCHS (Habitat)/Department of Architecture, University of Queensland/ Government of Australia, GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SHELTER TO THE YEAR 2000 SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL SEMINAR, Brisbane, Australia, 13-17 April 1993

Information from: D. Johal, UNCHS (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya

International Association for Development and Community Action/ Community Development Department of the Ministry of the Interior, Thailand/ Province de Hainaut, Belgium, INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE THEME "ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT", Bang-lamung, Thailand, 19-22 April 1993

See article under Events, August 1992 issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TROPICAL COASTAL URBAN DESIGN, Hainan, China, 20-23 April 1993

Information from: Mr. Li Zhixong, Secretary of the Organizing Committee, Haikou City Planning Bureau, Haikou 57005, Hainan Province, China. Tel: 86 898 799705; Fax: 86 898 795506

FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, Nairobi, Kenya, 26 April - 5 May 1993

MAY

Institute for Housing of Southern Africa (IAHS), 21st WORLD HOUSING CONGRESS ON THE THEME, "THE FUTURE OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES", Cape Town, South Africa, 10-14 May 1993

Information from: The Editor, ShelterNet, P.O. Box 41479, Nairobi, Kenya

JUNE

CANMET, INNOVATIVE HOUSING OF THE WORLD '93, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, 20-26 June 1993

See article under Events, August issue of UNCHS HABITAT NEWS, note name change.

AUGUST

4th Rinker International Conference on Building Construction, "AFFORDABLE HOUSING: PRESENT AND FUTURE" University of Florida, Gainsville, Florida, USA, 11-13 August, 1993

Information from: Dr. Robert C. Stroh, Coordinator Tel: (904) 392-5965

2nd International Congress of Asian Planning Schools on the theme "Planning for a Better Living Environment in Asia", Hong Kong, 25-27 August 1993

(See article under Events.)

SEPTEMBER

19th WEDC Conference, Accra, Ghana, 6-10 September 1993

Information from: Professor John Pickford, WEDC, Loughborough University of Technology, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, England, UK (See article under Events.)

1st SOUTHERN AFRICAN WATER AND WASTEWATER CONFERENCE/ "WATER AFRICA 93" EXHIBITION, Johannesburg, South Africa, 20-23 September 1993

Information from: Tracy Nolan, 1st Southern Africa Water and Wastewater Conference, 212 Molyneux Road, Liverpool L6 6AW, UK, Tel: +44 (0) 51 263-7552, Fax: +44 (0) 51 260 4097

7TH INTERNATIONAL MALLS CONFERENCE, ON THE THEME "STREETS AND SPACES FOR PEOPLE", Melbourne, Australia, 21-24 September 1993

(See article under Events.)

OCTOBER

IDNDR Science and Technology Committee of the UK, CONFERENCE ON THE THEME "NATURAL DISASTERS: PROTECTING VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES", London, UK, 13 October 1993

(See article under Events.)

International Union of Housing Finance Institutions, 20th WORLD CONFERENCE, Cape Town, South Africa, 18-21 October 1993

Information from: The Editor, ShelterNet, P.O. Box 41479 Nairobi, Kenya

CME, FIRST WORLD CONGRESS ON EMULSION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (with emphasis on bitumen emulsion), Paris, France, 19-22 October 1993

Information from: Société CME, 50 Place Marcel Pagnol, 92100 Boulogne-Billancourt, France

NOVEMBER

The Research and Working Group on African Housing and Urban Development and the Global Shelter Initiative for Developing Countries, 12th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of the Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World, on the theme "The State of the Third World: New Directions", Cairo, Egypt, 21 - 26 November 1993

Information from: Mekki Mtewa, Association for the Advancement of Policy, Research and Development in the Third World, P.O. Box 70257, Washington, D.C. 20024-0257; Fax and Phone (202) 723-7010

DECEMBER

Western Consortium for Public Health, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HEALTHY CITIES, San Francisco Bay Area, California, USA, 6-10 December 1993

(See article under Events.)

CORRESPONDENCE

UNCHS HABITAT NEWS is the official newsletter of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). It is published three times a year and distributed free of charge.

News of forthcoming events in human settlements which may be of international or regional interest are welcome, and should be forwarded to the Editor, UNCHS HABITAT NEWS.

We also welcome reprinting of any of the material in this publication, provided that the source is mentioned and one copy of the reprint is sent to the Editor.

All correspondence certaining to the activities of UNCHS (Habitat) should be forwarded to the following address:

Chief, Information, Audio-Visual and Documentation Division
UNCHS (Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi
KENYA

Manuscripts submitted for publication in UNCHS HABITAT NEWS should be typed in double-line spacing on one side of the page only. They will be amended and included at the Editor's discretion. If articles are used, the author(s) will be credited. If they are not used, no correspondence will be entered into. In no case will originals of manuscripts, photographs or other artwork be returned.

Editor: Ellen Kitonga
Design and production: Amrik Kalsi
Distribution: E. Esono

NGO News

NGO NEWS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (an insert to UNCHS HABITAT NEWS) serves as a forum for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned with issues related to human settlements at the international and national levels. Most of the information contained in NGO NEWS is supplied by the Habitat International Coalition. The views of NGO NEWS do not necessarily reflect those of UNCHS (Habitat) or of the United Nations.

UNCHS (Habitat) Information Offices

The UNCHS (Habitat) Information Offices can assist you in development education and project support communication. They can also provide you with educational films on a wide range of subjects. Write to them for help in solving human settlements information problems.

Africa

UNCHS (Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030
Nairobi
Kenya

Asia and the Pacific

UNCHS (Habitat)
Room No. 1013, Block B (10th floor)
c/o United Nations Building
Rajadamnern Avenue
Bangkok 10-200
Thailand

Eastern Europe

Eastern European Regional Information Office
1111-Budapest XI
Müegyetem rakpart 3/9
II.73
Hungary

Latin America

UNCHS (Habitat)
c/o CEPAL, Naciones Unidas
Apartado postal 6-718
Mexico City
Mexico

North America and the Caribbean

UNCHS (Habitat)
Suite 417, 130 Albert St.
Ottawa
Ontario
Canada K1P 5G4

Arab States

UNCHS (Habitat)
Information Office for Arab States
P.O. Box 35286
Amman
Jordan

Western Europe

UNCHS (Habitat)
Room E 6
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

UNCHS New York Office
DC2 Room 946
United Nations
New York N.Y. 10017
U.S.A.

Cover artwork

Front: UNCHS poster on Women in Human Settlements Development; all roads lead to UNCHS headquarters for the fourteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements.

Back: As the cover of the Autumn 1992 issue of *INSTRAW News* indicates, the central role of women and development is increasingly being recognized.

ISSN 0255-271 X = UNCHS Habitat News

UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (Habitat)
P O Box 30030, Nairobi, KENYA. Telephone: 230800, 520600
Cable: UNHABITAT; FAX (254) 2 226473, 226479; Telex: 22996 UNHAB KE